

City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association Newsletter July 2010

Vol. 17 Issue: #7

July 2010

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TUESDAY, July 13, 2010

War Memorial Building

Balboa Park

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July 13, 2010 Speaker Ruben Navarrette and Luncheon

Board Meeting	9:30 A.M.
General REA Meeting	11:00 A.M.
Program	11:30 A.M.
Luncheon	12:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker will be Ruben Navarrette, member of the editorial board of the San Diego Union Tribune, and a syndicated columnist for the Washington Post.

Mr. Navarrette will speak on the very timely issue of immigration reform. With recent laws passed in Arizona, this will continue to be a hot button issue and the subject of congressional debate.

A luncheon will follow the program. MENU:

Baked Ham
Scalloped potatoes,
Green beans Almondine,
Rolls and butter,
Peach Cobbler.
Coffee and lemonade

Member price is \$8.00 at the door. Reservations are required, sign up today for this delicious luncheon. Deadline is Friday, July 9.

Contact hospitality2@csdrea.com

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

or call Dave Twomey at 619-236-1407.

Dave

August through December Preview of Programs

August 10, will be a summer picnic at the Police Pistol Range. Speaker will be DA Paul Greenwood. This program will focus on elder abuse. The message will include tips for seniors that can reduce the risk of becoming a victim, and information about how we can better detect and respond to this largely silent crime.

September 14, at the Balboa Park Club, Ballroom, will be a candidate forum for Council District 6, and 8. Discussion will be about candidates' views, in particular on pension and health care benefits for retirees.

October 12, at the War Memorial Building, SDCERS' Cynthia Queen will discuss a "State of the System" program and will include projections for Corbett, 13th check, and COLA adjustments.

November, meeting will be at the Balboa Park Club, Ballroom, details to be announced.

December 9, Holiday Party, at Tom Ham's.

Dave Twomey

July 16, 2010, ALERT Special REA Event on RETIREE ISSUES - FRIDAY 10 AM to 11 AM

This special meeting will be a discussion sponsored by your REA Advocacy Committee to be held at the Pacific Beach Branch Library. We will meet in the library meeting room, address is 4275 Cass Street between Thomas Avenue and Reed Avenue, one block south of Grand Avenue.

Topics: supporting SDCERS independence from City politics; keeping SDCERS funded; retiree health care vesting; and when bankruptcy looms in other cities, what are their retirees doing?

There is a newly printed advocacy "Alert" brochure that is available for your review.

Please join Advocacy Committee members: Dick Wilken, Jon Dunchack, Jim Baross, Patti Karnes and other REA members to learn more and be involved in these critical issues.

At the meeting last month, June 11, 2010, approximately 30 retirees came to the Rolando/College Branch Library. At the question and answer session with representatives from the REA Board, retirees were asked to share their networking contacts with the Board. Healthcare challenges were explained as well as the need to coordinate with other public retiree associations. Board members were impressed by how well informed members are, and that they want REA to be as proactive as possible. Frustration is clear about the lack of objective reporting by the local news media, and several had suggestions to do more to turn this around. Supporting this was the results of an informal poll: roughly 98% of those attending indicated support for doubling the current \$2.00 monthly REA membership dues to \$4.00. As in 'you get what you pay for' mantra by Board member Ty Rogers.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by CSDREA President Jim Baross

It is difficult to convey how rewarding it is for me learning how to be REA's President. There is an active and involved Board, volunteers 'stepping up', members with whom I reacquaint in our new roles as retirees - no longer department heads, council members, lifeguards, street sweepers, or clerical assistants - now all RETIREES.

Yes, and there are some chores too, but active retirement was what I planned on and that is what I am getting. Did I mention the usual 10 e-mails a day from various Board members?

A pause of a short rant: Are you as frustrated as I, that it seems we hear nothing but a one-track mantra from some people upset that they did

not plan ahead for retirement like we did? Those that seem to have forgotten, or never been told, that we contributed from our own earnings, that we gave up other opportunities to serve the public, that we bargained, contracted, and now expect a fair return as promised? And, apparently there are many who seem to think that being in Public Service should be comparable to being a menial, easily replaceable, not really necessary servant. What is not to understand about the value of Public Service in the running of a big city- water, sewer, road, trash, crime control, emergency response, not to mention the quality of life that is protected by Public Servants- us? OK, rant finished.

Planning for the annual BBQ in August and Holiday Party in December is moving right along, as well as interesting programs for our monthly General Membership meetings.

The Advocacy Committee is successfully holding satellite information and feedback meetings at several locations around San Diego so that you can more conveniently meet and discuss REA issues with Board members.

I hope to get to see and hear from many of you that have not necessarily been attending all our other events. I encourage you all to look over the revamping REA web site at <http://www.csdrea.com/> . You can review an expanded version of our membership brochure that we will be sending to city employees who have retired in the last seven or eight years.

AND, the web site is open to all, not just members as we continue to increase our ability to inform REA members about threats to their retirement benefits; to do what we can to protect the SDCERS from the City's cash flow problems; and to encourage new retirees to join our organization. Speaking of that, I recommend

that you ask a retired City employee friend to join REA.

The Advocacy Committee, led by Patti Karnes, next get-together for retirees in various neighborhoods to learn about and discuss our issues is Friday, July 16, 2010, at the Pacific Beach Branch Library.

Board Member position of Secretary is OPEN. Please contact me or another REA board member if you can participate at this crucial time.

Jim

For City employee retirees who have not yet joined us. They can log on at <http://www.csdrea.com> or call 858-272-0494 for more information.

CSCERS Board Meetings reported by REA Board Member Patti Karnes

Patti Karnes attended the May 28, 2010 SDCERS meeting. SDCERS assets as of March 31, 2010 are \$4,049,059,000 as compared to a year ago of \$3,027,381,000.

Patti spoke as an individual in an inquiry about long term fiduciary responsibility of members' pensions. If short term solutions are used, would the City again have difficulty obtaining bonds?

Patti and the new REA Board encourage all members to keep alert on the challenges to SDCERS and the consequences to our retirement program. For example, the new City Attorney has filed legal actions against SDCERS.

Jim Baross asks that if you have specific information impacting issues, please notify the REA Board. Send your

support to the SDCERS Board to keep their integrity and fiduciary responsibility for funding our pensions. There may be solutions that previous SDCERS Boards may not have considered. The REA Board appreciates input from REA members in these troubled times.

Also, the San Diego Union Tribune counts the number of letters to the editor on a topic and prints them in proportion to the number of submissions. Other print, television and web sites may be more responsive to our concerns if we increase our outreach and persistence.

Remember that the SDCERS meetings are at 8:30 a.m., at 401 West A Street. Please attend if you possibly can. These matters are very important to all of us. SDCERS makes parking free in the building.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: July 9, August 20, no meeting in September, October 1, November 5, and December 17, 2010. Special meetings may be scheduled as needed with a 72 hours' notice. Committee meetings, not televised yet, are on the Thursday before the regularly scheduled Board meeting: Disability Committee will meet from 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.; Business & Governance will meet 10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.; Investment Committee will meet 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Audit committee will continue to meet quarterly on Wednesdays at 900 a.m. on April 7, June 30, September 29, and December 15, 2010. Complete board minutes and actions taken are available on www.SDCERS.org. Patti

General Announcements

REA Board member position for Secretary is OPEN. Please contact Jim, or other REA board member if you are interested in participating at this crucial time.

We are looking for additional greeters and helpers at meetings. 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 come able to help, or contact Dave Twomey @ 619-236-1407
Thanks!

Happy Birthdays: Lemon Herbert, 97 on 6/11; Evelyn Nargi, 92 on 7/1; J.D. Reynolds, 93 on 7/10; Bernice Webber, 92 on 7/20; Nellie Allen, 90 on 7/20; Harry Greason, 90 on 7/21; Viola Cox, 94 on 7/23 and Nathan Wells, 92 on 7/30.

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>
The WEB site is Open to all. 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		
Position	Name	Email Link**
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	vacant	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	Jon Dunchack	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
Hospitality Co-Chair	vacant	Hospitality 1
Hospitality Co-Chair	vacant	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. Thank you for your cooperation.