

**SONOMA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES (SCARE)**

P.O. BOX 5513, SANTA ROSA, CA 95402 [www.sonomacountyretirees.com](http://www.sonomacountyretirees.com)

Minutes of the SCARE Membership ZOOM Meeting

November 17, 2020, 1 p.m. Meeting

**1. Call to Order:** President Alix Shor called the meeting to order. 25 people (including speaker) logged into the meeting. Later Alix and another member had to leave the meeting due to a power failure in their areas.

**2. Guest Speaker:** Cora Guy introduced Lisa Cannon, Director of the Redwood Empire Food Bank, who shared this was also her first Zoom Meeting. Lisa explained The Redwood Empire Food Bank has been around for 35 years. When they started, they were providing food to approximately 5,000 families. Now, because of the pandemic, they are providing food to approximately 132,000 families. They offer drive-thru distribution sites as well as 300 direct distribution sites. They are seeing families for the first time due to job losses. They have 8,000 volunteers. Even the National Guard has stepped in to help. They are not government funded but receive funding from businesses, individuals, and grants for government commodities for produce, pork, and beef. This year they purchased a million dollars of food. They are the only food bank in this area. They have 68 paid full-time staff.

(Alix had to leave the meeting because of a power failure. Phyris took over the meeting.)

**3. SCERA Board Candidates:** John Pels and Tim Tuscany are running for the position of Retirement Rep on the Sonoma County Employees Retirement Association Board. John has been on the SCERA Board for 19 years. Tim retired in 2015 from the Sonoma County Health Services Department as a Psychiatric RN. The subject of no COLAs was discussed. Tim said he appreciates John's work but thinks we should be able to get a COLA and we need to fight for it.

Phyris explained we do not pay into a COLA plan as other counties do. There are 20 counties in our retirement system and we are the only county that doesn't get a COLA.

Carol said there is no way to get the Board of Supervisors to agree to a COLA as they would have to pay for it. Given the political climate, there is virtually no chance of that.

**4. Approve SCARE Board Members:** The terms of office are up for the following Board Members and all have agreed to continue if re-elected:

Ed Clites, Shaun DuFosee, Cora Guy, Patty Hamley, Alix Shor, and Kathy Young,

The Zoom vote was unanimous to approve the slate. (However, there was not a quorum of 25 when the vote was taken, so another vote will need to be taken at a later date.)

**5. JLMBC:** Phyris mentioned that, although there is constant advertising on Medicare Advantage plans on tv right now, County retirees must not sign up for them or they will lose their County insurance. Open enrollment for County retirees is in March.

\*Western Health Advantage is going to offer somewhat limited coverage through Memorial

Hospital. The County is waiting for cost estimate to decide whether to add this coverage.  
\*Kaiser costs are way down. Hoping for little or no increase in Kaiser rates.  
\*County Health Plan costs are going down so there should be little increase in the premium.  
\*Sutter will have a minimal cost increase.

Bill reported there will be changes in the company handling County life insurance. Could be a little bit less expensive. The change will be handled automatically by the County. More information will be available in the open enrollment booklet.

Next July, \$30 to \$40 will be deposited into our HRA accounts. Approximately 600 people haven't used any of their money. When people die without using their HRA funds, those funds revert to a pool which is then distributed to existing members in July.

**6. SCAMS:** Be careful when reading emails. There are many scammers out there and some have the SCARE Board's names and email addresses. Bill and Patty have received scam emails that look like they are coming from Alix. If it looks like a scam, hover over the sender's name with your mouse and the sender's real email address will appear. It will usually be something very different from the sender's name shown.

**7. Membership Survey:** Surveys will be mailed out very soon to all SCARE Members along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope back to our P.O. Box. We are looking for feedback to let us know if they like what we are doing and any suggestions for improvement.

**8. SCCLO:** Nothing to report. No new contracts coming out anytime soon.

**9. Next Membership Meeting Speaker:** Cora announced the next speaker will be from the Social Security Office speaking on their programs, fraud, Medicare, etc.

**10. Adjourn:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Hamley, Secretary

### **Upcoming Events**

Check SCARE website for dates of 2021 meetings.