



SCARE Newsletter

Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees

Published Quarterly

August 2011

Volume 23 Issue 3

Calendar of Events 2011

Business Meetings

Vets Building in Santa Rosa at 1:00 PM

Social at 12:30 PM

8/30 & 11/29

Luncheons:

Quail Inn in Oakmont at 1:00 PM

9/13 & 12/6

Board Meetings

9/7 & 11/2

1:00 PM Location changes. Call first.

Get Notices and Newsletters by Email

Quite a few members have agreed to get notices and newsletters via email. This saves money and trees and lets us get info to you more quickly, which is really important as we work to protect retiree health benefits and take legal action. Plus you get the newsletter in color and can increase the font for easier reading!! If you are willing to get the newsletter and notices via email, send an email to communications@sonomacountyretirees.com authorizing Kathy Wertz to send them to you. It is a good idea to add that address to your address book so spam filters let it through.

President's Message by Carol Bauer

It is the end of July and the year is over half gone. There are advertisements for getting kids ready to return to school and Costco actually has their Christmas ribbon for sale. As I think about these I realize that sometimes I am not sure I have a really good plan for how to spend my retirement. What I need is a plan so the time does not just slip by without enjoying the fruits of all the hard work that got me here. So yesterday I went to Bodega Bay and spent the afternoon enjoying our incredible County and all its beauty. I hope you are all enjoying the abundance of beauty in Sonoma County or the beauty wherever you live.

We need to focus on enjoying the retirement we worked for and have a plan for how to spend our retirement years. Studies show that people are healthier and happier when they have a purpose or plan for their lives. When we were working, much of our time was structured by the hours, the work, our family obligations and just trying to get everything done with not enough time to get it all done. So whatever your plan is, this is a good time to revisit it and make sure you are enjoying your retirement to the fullest.

Now that I have made my philosophical pitch for retirement enjoyment I'll get down to reporting on how and what we are doing. We continue to work with our attorneys on the lawsuit and our appeal was filed on April 29th. I don't think at the beginning of this any of us anticipated how long this process would take but we continue to refine our position and track not only our own position but also the progress of lawsuits that are moving forward in other counties.

Right now we are also focusing on preparing for the Conference in October. Cindy Moore and her committee have made arrangements for hotels, dinners, breaks, speakers and the ton of other details required to host a conference. They are doing a great job and have great support from our co-hosts from Mendocino County. Anyone interested in helping now or during the conference please let us know. I am sure we can use your help at registration, setting up for speakers etc. **I also want to encourage you to attend the conference.** Not only will it be educational, it will give you an opportunity to meet retirees from other counties, see some of our Sonoma County friends you may not have seen in a while and also show your support for the work SCARE does on behalf of retirees. I hope to see you there.

Board of Directors

Officers

President — Carol Bauer
707-874-9149

bfuzzy51@aol.com

Vice President — Greg Jacobs

707-823-7341
gjacobs48@gmail.com

Secretary — Patty Hamley
707-579-1726

phamleyis@hotmail.com

Treasurer — Phyris Tobler
707-795-6926

phyris@sbcglobal.net

Immediate Past President

Dick Gearhart

707-577-0227
sgearhart@pacbell.net

Directors

Carl Jackson

Eeve Lewis

Scott Lewis

Ron Piorek

Alix Shor

Kathy Wertz

Gary Wilkening

Retirement Board

Mike Chrystal

Alternate—Dianne Edwards

Committee Chairs

CRCEA Rep - Ron Piorek

Alternate—Dick Gearhart

Legal - Greg Jacobs

Membership— Patty Hamley

Luncheons— Patty Hamley

Newsletter Editor—Lonna Necker

Scholarships—Gary Wilkening

The SCARE Newsletter is printed quarterly. The information printed in SCARE is believed to be accurate and from reliable sources. However, no responsibility is assumed by SCARE, the Editor, or the writers for inaccuracies in the articles as published.

We are no longer including Board Meeting Minutes in our Newsletter. They can be viewed at our Website or you can request a copy from Patty Hamley.

Minutes of the SCARE Business Meeting of May 24, 2011

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Carol Bauer at 1 p.m. There was a quorum, as there were more than 25 members present.
2. **Guest Speaker James Bertero, Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney:** Jim spoke to the membership and answered questions about his job assisting clients in planning and arranging their financial affairs. Jim reported he looked over SCERA's investment portfolio and feels they are doing a good job investing "our" money.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Carol gave the Treasurer's report in Phyris' absence. There was a discussion about not printing our Treasurer's report in our Minutes or on our website. We currently have a large amount of money in our bank account but this is expected to be used for legal fees in our suit against the County of Sonoma. Those present felt it is not necessary to post this amount on our website.
4. **Legal Update:** Our attorneys filed the Opening Brief to the Federal Appellate Court on May 6th. It is very likely our case against the County of Sonoma will not be heard by the Appellate Court until next year.
5. **Safety Net Program:** Human Resources finally sent a survey to retirees concerning a possible Safety Net Program that was promised almost three years ago. Retirees who meet the eligibility criteria and face a financial hardship due to the increased cost of medical benefits may be able to seek financial assistance from the County, although there are still a lot of steps to be taken before it is available.

Some retirees said they are not comfortable filling out the survey even though it is confidential and does not require the retiree's name. Cindy Moore asked that an explanation of the Safety Net survey be put in the next Newsletter.

The next JLMBC Meeting is June 23, so a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors concerning a Safety Net Program is not expected soon.
6. **CRCEA Conferences:** Alix Shor reported on the CRCEA Conference she, Phyris Tobler, and Dick Gearhart attended April 17-20, 2011, in San Diego. Sonoma and Mendocino Counties will be hosting the next conference at the Hyatt Regency Vineyard Creek Hotel in Santa Rosa October 24-26. Cindy Moore is chairing this event and is asking members to help plan and attend the event.
7. **SCARE Luncheon:** Carol reminded members of the June 7th luncheon at the Quail Inn. Reservations (\$16 for members/\$20 for guests) must be sent to Patty Hamley by June 1.
8. **Drawing for Door Prizes:** 41 members signed the roster for today's meeting. Richard Kelly, Greg Jacobs, and Lonna Necker won the drawing. Congratulations!
9. **Retirement Board Meeting:** Carl Jackson reminded retirees that the Retirement Board meets the third Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the SCERA Office, 433 Aviation Blvd., Suite 100, Santa Rosa. Retirees are invited to attend.
10. **Deferred Compensation:** Carl thanked Bill Hart, retired Human Resources Director, for starting the deferred compensation program that County employees have enjoyed for many years.
11. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. by President Bauer.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Hamley, Secretary

CRCEA Conference in Santa Rosa

The Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees (SCARE) and the Association of Mendocino County Retired Employees (AMCRE) cordially invite you to attend the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) Fall Conference on October 24 – 26 at the Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel in downtown Santa Rosa.

CRCEA is made up of county retirees from the twenty 1937 Act counties in California. CRCEA keeps our county associations informed on current legislation that may affect our retirement benefits and issues of interest to us all. Counties take turns hosting these conferences approximately every 10 years and this fall's conference is being hosted by Sonoma and Mendocino County retiree associations.

This Fall's program includes the impact of national health care policies, issues surrounding Social Security and Medicare, 1937 Act specifics as well as public pension issues in general, benefits and cautions around use of social media and networking and a summary of current legislation affecting retirees moving through the State legislature. A hospitality reception hosted by Steve Pettee of Pacific Group Agencies, Inc. follows both the Monday and Tuesday sessions.

The opening session starts at 1:00 PM on Monday, October 24. Tuesday's session begins at 8:00 AM. On Tuesday evening there will be a banquet dinner (optional) at a cost of \$55 per person. The evening will include entertainment and door prizes. Wednesday morning is the CRCEA business meeting.

All but \$10 of the registration fee has been waived for SCARE and AMCRE members. The \$10 helps to cover the cost of refreshments served during the breaks. Registration forms will be available at the August 30 General Membership Meeting and the September 13 luncheon. The registration form and conference program will be available on the SCARE website at www.sonomacountyretirees.com in the near future. You may also contact **Cindy Moore at 707-322-0999 or 81moorepinot@sbcglobal.net**. Both the registration form and your check for \$10 (and \$55 cost for the dinner if applicable) must be received no later than October 1, 2011. Please mail them to **Cindy Moore, 5701 Occidental Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95401**.



In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families and friends of the following retirees:

Ceceile Gabrian-Cody
Jean Greenhalgh
Betty Lewis
Julia McCarthy
Robert Norton
Iris Sableman
Annalee Wilcox



The SCARE Scholarships have been awarded to Santa Rosa Junior College student **Joshua Collette** who wants to be a Physical Education Teacher. Joshua's father is Steven Collette from Probation.

The Sonoma State University student is **Erin Reed** who wants to be a Licensed Marriage and Family Counselor. Erin's mother is Penny Reed from Human Services.

Congratulations to you both!

JLMBC Update by Kathy Wertz

Retiree Safety Net Survey - As you know the County sent out surveys to all retirees asking about their interest and needs for a Safety Net Program to assist them with health plan premiums. The County reported that 600 responses were received; however they have not compiled the responses in order to give a report to the Board of Supervisors. We did hear that many retirees reported low incomes which showed a need for this program. We will keep you informed and we will continue to press the County for progress in the development of this program by meeting with BOS members.

Retiree Waivers - Another issue still in progress is the retiree waiver of health insurance with the ability to return to it at a later date. We were told the issue would go before the Board of Supervisors in June. However the waiver was only mentioned in the Board report that it was "being explored." We are now being told it will come up again when the final OPEB report is presented to the BOS in November or December.

SEIU presented a report to JLMBC on the "**Cost to the County for Pensionable \$600 Monthly Health Care Benefit.**" The report showed that the \$600 monthly cash allowance/\$500 health insurance per employee is \$3.9 million more expensive than the prior 85% of lowest cost plan benefit level. SEIU asked that the County, through the JLMBC process to begin discussions of alternative structures to the \$600 monthly cash benefit and \$500 flat health insurance. HR staff was not receptive, but the committee supported SEIU's request.

Open Enrollment Changes - Of the 205 retirees who changed health plans during Open Enrollment, 105 went to Kaiser, 51 to AARP, 21 to County Plan PPO, and 28 to the County Plan EPO. 183 of the changes were due to the elimination of PacifiCare/Secure Horizons.

NEW! "Helpful Information" on Website

There is a new link on our website, <http://sonomacountyretirees.com/helpfulinfo>. The SCARE Board of Directors hopes to use this section of our web page to share information with our members that we think will be of use to them. It will include summaries of topics that are presented at our General Membership Meetings as we know that most of you are not able to attend these meetings. We may also find other information that we think may be helpful to our retirees. If you have information that you think would be useful to other retirees, please send it to Phyris Tobler (contact info on page 2). It will then be reviewed by the full Board to determine appropriateness of the material for our website.

So far we have one article by Roger Illsey, a local attorney, who made a very good presentation on Estate Planning at our February General Membership Meeting. He allowed us to put a summary on our website so that our members who are not able to attend our meetings can access the information. While the SCARE Board does not endorse the products or services of our presenters, we hope you may find the information useful. We have added links to sites that can give you information on avoiding scams and fraud schemes.

SCARE Membership and Financial Information

As of June 30, SCARE had 1344 members and 190 associate members. We are no longer including our financial information in our newsletter but members can contact me if they want this information.

Phyris Tobler, Treasurer

SCARE Legal Fund Contributions

Thank you to the following members who have donated to our legal fund **since the last** Newsletter. It is greatly appreciated.

Greg Jacobs and Lonna Necker

SONOMA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES *LUNCHEON*

When: Tuesday, September 13, 2011
Where: Quail Inn Restaurant, Oakmont Golf Club, 7035 Oakmont Drive., SR
Time: 1 p.m. (This is a sit-down luncheon.)
Cost: \$16.00 (tax and tip included) for members & associate members
\$20.00 (tax and tip included) for non-members and guests

M E N U

Mixed Greens Salad

Dinner Roll

Coffee & Tea

Entrées:

(1) Baked Red Snapper with Roasted Red Peppers, Saffron Rice, and Seasonal Vegetables

(2) Beef Brisket Slow Roasted with Mesquite Barbeque Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, and Seasonal Vegetables

(3) Cheese Tortellini with Seasonal Vegetables and Gorgonzola Cheese

Dessert: Ice Cream Sundae – Served with Chocolate Sauce, Chopped Nuts, and a Cherry

Please be sure to indicate your preference of entrée for lunch.

RESERVATIONS AND CHECKS DUE BY WEDNESDAY, Sept. 7th

(We can take late reservations until Thursday, Sept. 8, if you call Patty Hamley at 579-1726)

Non-Responsibility Declaration: All luncheons or other activities arranged for or by Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees (SCARE) are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. SCARE does not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or passengers on their property in matters pertaining to these activities.

Make checks payable to "SCARE" and send to:

Patty Hamley
2112 Berkeley Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Name _____

Choice of Entrée _____

Name _____

Choice of Entrée _____

Name _____

Choice of Entrée _____

Member _____ Associate Member _____ Non-Member _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Phone # _____

Protecting Yourself from Fraud and Scams

- Sad to say that there are all kinds of fraud and scams out there, and even sadder to note that approximately 50% of the scams are aimed at seniors who make up only 15% of the population. That is a very sobering fact if you are a senior.

SCARE is planning on having a speaker at our November General Membership Meeting who will be discussing ways to protect yourself from scams. Meanwhile, there is quite a lot of information on the web on how to do this. I thought some links to this information might be helpful and recommend that you take a look at them when you have a chance. This information is a little scary as there are so many ways people are trying to scam seniors these days but it is better to be forewarned, and therefore more likely to avoid getting taken in.

The Redwood Credit Union (which many retirees use) has a lot of information on different online frauds and scams (https://www.redwoodcu.org/site/tools_member_fraudscams.html). Anyone can go to this site even if you are not a member of the Credit Union.

OnGuard Online is a government site that has lots of information on how to protect yourself from online problems with topics like Avoiding Scams, Computer Disposal, Identity Theft, Phishing, Online Investing, Spyware, and many more. Click on the following link for more info on the site - <http://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/overview.aspx>

The National Crime Prevention Council website contains an online bulletin on Seniors and Telemarketing Fraud - http://www.ncpc.org/resources/files/pdf/fraud/senfraud_rev4.pdf - which provides valuable information on how to recognize and avoid telemarketer scams. There is also a great deal of other crime prevention info on the NCPC main site (<http://www.ncpc.org/resources/files/pdf>) with topics ranging from travel safety, to avoiding theft (including identity), avoiding violent crime (http://www.ncpc.org/resources/files/pdf/violent-crime/inside_look.pdf), and more.

I have put this information on our website under the Helpful Information link - <http://www.sonomacountyretirees.com/helpfulinfo>. You can go there and just click on the links instead of having to type them in.

Phyris Tobler

Updating Contact Information

Please remember to let us know when you move, change phone numbers or email addresses. Notifying SCERA does not get the information to us as SCERA will not give out your address or phone number to anyone. We know it is very easy to forget to do this but sometimes we have trouble locating members and if we get mail back, we try reaching them by phone or email. Please send changes via email to phyris@sbcglobal.net, snail mail to 7675 Blair Ave., Rohnert Park, CA 94928, or call 707 795-6926. Then we can make sure you always get our Newsletter and other important notices.

And If I don't hear from you, this is what happens: Mail has been returned with no forwarding address for the following members: ***Dell Jacoby, Billy Ray, Sharon Schmidt, Paul & Linda Stibi, and Mary Turpin.*** Attempts to contact them by phone and/or email have failed and we have no way to contact these members. If anyone knows how to reach them, would you please contact them and ask them to call me or give me their number and I'll call them.

Thank you. Phyris Tobler

Dear Friends of F.I.S.H.

Thank you for your generous gift of \$195.50 in cash and two checks for \$20, for a total of \$215.50.

Hunger does exist in Santa Rosa. Recently a couple came to F.I.S.H. as they had not had a full meal in two days; a mother of five had just moved and had no food in her house; a household of six

Cont→



Cont. consisting of three children were desperate for food, the mother cried as she explained her situation. Your support enables us to help these people and many more in Santa Rosa who need food. We are GRATEFUL for your faithful support for so many years. We APPRECIATE your kindness and generosity to F.I.S.H.

Jeanne-Marie Jones, Director

(Carl Jackson places donation baskets for F.I.S.H. on the tables at our quarterly SCARE luncheons and delivers the donations to F.I.S.H.)



Congratulations New Retirees
& ***New SCARE Members***
(in bold and italics)

Francine Archer—PRMD
Larry Abrahamson—SCWA
Cynthia Ambrosi—Sheriff
Susan Anderson—Sheriff
Kathleen Austin—Deferred
Debra Avanche—Health Services
Nancy Bacher—Sheriff
Michael Bailey—Deferred
Adrienne Badella—Health Services
Dian Barkan—Health Services
Galya Bayreuther—Human Services
Jennifer Bennett—Sheriff
Eloyce Berethower—Deferred
John Blengino—General Services
Robert Boitano—ACTTC
James Bond—Sheriff
Nathan Bradley—Probation
Margaret Byrne—Sheriff
Billy Buchenau—General Services
Lynn Carolin—Human Services
John Caron—PRMD
Charles Carpenter—Sheriff
Margaret Casanova—Health Services
James Casey—District Attorney
Claudia Christy—Fairgrounds
Loretta Chuckrow—Deferred
Maria Cipriani—Ag Preservation & Open Space
Sandra Covall-Alves—Emergency Svcs
Donald Dakan—General Services
Allan Darrimon—Regional Parks
Cesar Datu—TPW
Beverly Davis—PRMD
Kathleen Davis—Health Services
Patricia Davis—District Attorney

Steven Dee—PRMD
Roberta Delgado—Human Services
Alan DeiRossi—Sheriff
Brian DeRousseau—Deferred
Rod Dole—ACTTC
David Donovan—PRMD
Cameron Douglas—Public Defender
Mary Eickmeyer—Health Services
Joseph Farmer—Sheriff
Camilla Farrell—Human Services
Carol Farries—ACTTC
Gina Fata—Health Services
Michael Ferguson—Sheriff
Thomas Ferriola—Superior Court
Maureen Flynn Garcia—Health Services
Barbara Flournoy—Health Services
Carmen Garcia—Superior Court
Robert Garcia—Health Services
Natalie Getsinger—DCSS
Benjamin Gigli—Deferred
Kimberly Girard—DCSS
Kenneth Goddard—SCWA
Paul Gregg—Sheriff
Earl Gwynne—ACTTC
Donald Haga—Sheriff
Thomas Haran—Water Agency
Barbara Hareland—Human Services
David Haverty—Regional Parks
Jean Hayes—Sheriff
Robert Herr—PRMD
Ronald Higgins—Probation
Stuart Hotaling—Regional Parks
Shannon Hutchinson—Regional Parks
Donna Inman—ACTTC
David Iverson—Sheriff
Cliff Ives—Health Services
Jeffrey Jaehing—General Services
Linda Jenkins—Probation
Mario Jimenez—Sheriff

Cont→

Joseph Kase—Regional Parks
 Julie Kee—Health Services
 Alyse Kellogg—ISD
 Denise Koblick—Health Services
 Ken Krout—Regional Parks
 Marshall Kubota—Health Services
 Monica Labbert—Deferred
 Gary Leach—SCWA
 Betty Lee—Human Services
 Carolyn Lightfoot—Sheriff
 Cynthia Loscotoff—Public Defender
 Theresa Lovold—TPW
 Kathy Lowney—ACTTC
John Lynch—Health Services
 Mary Maddux-Gonzalez—Health Services
Beth Martinez—County Counsel
 Dave McCall—Probation
 James McCray—Regional Parks
 Sherry McGuire—Human Services
 Gregory McGuirk—ACTTC
 Albert Miller—Fairgrounds
 Paula Mingram—Sheriff
 Robert Monroy—Sheriff
Dana Moore—DCSS
 Kevin Mullnix—Sheriff
Frank Murphy – Regional Parks
 Scott Murphy—General Services
 Diana Murray—Health Services
 Cynthia Myers—Superior Court
 Jamie Nelson—TPW
 Gary O'Connor—PRMD
 Juanita Pena—Retirement
 Jamie Peterson—ACTTC
 Erica Phelps—SCWA
 Marie Pirinoli—Probation
 Diane Prowten—PRMD
 Stephen Prudhomme—Probation
 Dilys Ranger—PRMD
 Steven Ranish—Health Services
 Albert Redwine—Human Services
 Sutton Reid—ISD
 John Ricketson—Sheriff
 Steven Rigg—Sheriff
 Joan Risse—District Attorney
 James Romanucci—ACTTC

Yadira Rosas—Sheriff
 Marsh Rose—Health Services
 Gail Rosenfelder—Health Services
Claude Rosenthal—Health Services
Paul Rowan—Ag Preservation
Dwight Russell—Human Services
 David Rust—Probation
 Maryann Ryan—Health Services
Carol Sanders—DCSS
 Kathleen Davis Schabel—Human Services
 Sharon Shanahan—Health Services
 Jeanne Shaw—Health Services
 Sergei Sherbin—ISD
 Antoinette Siri-Locke—Probation
Lois Sommers—Probation
 Ikuko Stever—Human Resources
Karen Stiny—Sheriff
 Patricia Stoddard—Board of Supervisors
 Linda Suvoy—Sheriff
Robert Swift—PRMD
Cynthia Thomas—DCSS
Susan Timko—Health Services
 Nadine Van Vranken—Health Services
 Robyn Vance—Health Services
 Lynn Vender—Human Services
Donald Vescovi—Probation
 David Walsh—PRMD
 Wendy Walsh—Transferred
 Cynthia Warren-Puccioni—ACTTC
 Elizabeth Warren—Sheriff
 Susan Waxman—PRMD
Janet West—Health Services
 Diana Williams—PRMD
 Lisa Williams—PRMD
 Kenneth Williamson—Sheriff
Paula Young—Human Services

Encourage Fellow Retirees to join SCARE!

While we have added many new members, we are stronger with even more. If you see people you know on the above list who have not joined SCARE, please encourage them to do so. That way they can continue to have a say in the future of their benefits. You can call Patty Hamley at 707 579-1726 to get a copy of our application form or go to our website: www.sonomacountyretirees.com.

Sonoma County Association of
Retired Employees (SCARE)
P.O. Box 5513
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Address Service Requested

General Membership Meeting

August 30, 2011

Veteran's Memorial Building, Santa Rosa, CA

12:30-1:00-Meet and Greet

1:00-3:00—General Meeting

**REMEMBER TO COME AT 12:30 FOR PRE-MEETING NETWORKING WITH
FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES—SNACKS PROVIDED**

AGENDA

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. WELCOME | VI. CRCEA CONFERENCE REPORT |
| II. SPEAKER: To be arranged | VII. OTHER |
| III. JLMBC REPORT | VIII. DRAWING |
| IV. LEGAL UPDATE | |