



SCARE Newsletter

Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees

Published Quarterly November 2023 Volume 323 Issue 4

Calendar of Events 2024

Membership Meetings

2/27/24; 5/21/24; 8/20/24,
11/19/24 Meetings are at
1pm at Finley Center and by
Zoom

Luncheons Luncheons have
been canceled due to COVID

Board Meetings

1:00 PM Dates may change so
call Board member first.

1/3/24; 3/6/24; 5/1/24;
7/10/24; 9/11/24; 11/6/24

Get Newsletter by Email:

Many members have agreed to get notices and newsletters via email. This saves money and trees and lets us get info to you more quickly. Plus you can increase the font size for easier reading!! If you are willing to get notices and the newsletter via email, send an email to communications@sonomacountyretirees.com authorizing SCARE to send them to you. Please add that address to your address book so spam filters let it through.

The SCARE Newsletter is printed quarterly. The information printed in the newsletter 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.

President's Report by Kathy Young

Cost of living increases remain foremost in our board activities. Julie Wyne, CEO of SCERA, will be the speaker at our November 28th Membership Meeting. She will give us a status report on both the Negative Contingency Reserve and the Interest Fluctuation Reserve. She will explain how these two reserves affect COLAs and what options are being considered that might possibly allow for a COLA. We hope you will join us at this meeting. See page 2 for more information.

SCERA is having its election for the retiree representatives. There are 2 positions, one is the trustee and the other is the alternate. Neil Baker is running unopposed for the alternate position so you will not get a ballot for him. John Pels and Mark Walsh are running for the trustee position. The SCARE Board is supporting John Pels. He is currently a SCARE board member, has represented retirees on the SCERA board for many years in the past and will continue to support our concerns in the future.

At our November Membership Meeting we will also have elections for Board positions. Chris Bauer, Lou Maricle, John Pels, and Phyris Tobler are up for reelection and Paul Carroll is running. Please contact me if you are interested in being a board member or would like to know more about what is involved. My contact information is on page 2.

You may join the meeting either in Person or on Zoom. We meet in person at the Finley Center Cypress Room. Finley Center is located at 2060 W. College Ave, in Santa Rosa. Here is the ID code if you choose to Zoom in to the meeting: Join Zoom Meeting at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8954632781>.

Light snacks are provided to those in attendance so come at 12:30 to socialize with other retirees. Remember that we give away gift cards to those attending, three for those in person and three for Zoom attendees. You must be present to win.

We also encourage you to attend the SCERA Retirement Board meeting by Zoom on **December 14th**, where they will be discussing and possibly making policy recommendations on the two reserve funds mentioned above. We must show the SCERA Board how important this is to retirees so we urge you to attend. The SCERA website (<https://scretire.org/december-retirement-board-meeting-x121440>) will have the Zoom login information the week of the meeting plus we will send a reminder email to all our members for whom we have email addresses.

Good news is that the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment is 3.2%. That will be decreased a little as the Medicare Part B is going up \$9.80/month for a total of \$174.70/month. This is more if your income is over \$103,000/year.

Board of Directors

Officers

President — Kathy Young

707-539-8027

kyoung2@sonic.net

Vice President — Phyris Tobler

707-795-6926

phyris@sbcglobal.net

Secretary — Shaun Du Fosee

707-303-7336

raiders196511@gmail.com

Treasurer — Chris Bauer

707-708-1061

bfuzzy51@aol.com

Immediate Past

President — Alix Shor

707 495-4992

alixshor@sonic.net

Directors at Large

Carol Bauer

Ed Clites

Cora Guy

Patty Hamley

Lou Maricle

Jane Paul

John Pels

Retirement Board Retiree Reps

Tim Tuscany

Alternate: Neil Baker

Committee Chairs & Tasks

Health Benefits/JLMBC: Phyris Tobler

Membership: Patty Hamley

Financial Oversight: Phyris Tobler

CRCEA Rep: Carol Bauer

Alternate: Lou Maricle

Newsletter Editor: Phyris Tobler

Programs: Cora Guy

Scholarships: Ed Clites

Nominating: Cora Guy

SCCLO, ICPC, NBLC: Bill Robotka

Facebook Coordinator: Bob Bulwa

Contact info on website

Julie Wyne, Speaker at the November 28th Membership Meeting

Julie Wyne, CEO for SCERA (our retirement association), will be the speaker at our November 28th Membership Meeting. She will be giving us an update on what is happening with the **COLA policy decisions** related to the Negative Contingency Reserve and the Interest Fluctuation Reserve. Current policy on these two reserves and a lack of excess earnings makes it almost impossible for SCERA to recommend a COLA to the Board of Supervisors.

Julie will be explaining how these two reserves affect COLAs and what options are being considered that might possibly allow for a COLA.

The SCERA Retirement Board will be discussing, and possibly making policy recommendations, on these reserves at their December 14th board meeting. It is crucial we show how important this issue is to retirees. We can do this by attending the December meeting on Zoom. The Zoom link will be available on the meeting agenda on the SCERA website (<https://scretire.org/administration/meeting-calendar/retirement-board>) plus we will send it to you by email the week of the meeting if we have your email address.

SCERA has a COLA subcommittee that will be meeting with County staff in November. The bottom line is that no matter what the Retirement Board recommends, the Board of Supervisors must approve any changes so this is not likely to be settled quickly.

JLMBC Report by Phyris Tobler

Health Insurance Rates: We are in the process of looking at proposals for County health insurance. While no decisions have been made, there probably won't be major changes other than rates will continue to increase.

Sutter members can get vaccinations at CVS. A shorter wait.

Delta Dental coverage for extra annual cleanings: If you are enrolled in Delta Dental PPO, you are eligible for additional annual dental cleaning if you have any of the following conditions: ALS, cancer, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, heart disease, HIV/AIDS, Huntington's disease, joint replacement, lupus, opioid misuse and addiction, Parkinson's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, or Sjogren's syndrome.

Home Improvement Tax Credits

The Inflation Reduction Act extended and expanded tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements starting in 2023. You can get an Energy Efficient Home Improvement credit for 30% of improvements, including home energy audits, Energy Star-qualified doors and windows and HVAC upgrades. Credit is worth \$1,200/year.

The Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit has been extended through 2034. It's worth 30% of the cost of installing energy systems such as geothermal heat pumps, solar energy systems, or battery storage technology.

Sonoma County Employees Retirement Association (SCERA) Elections

The SCERA election for the retiree representatives for the 2024-2026 term will be in November. This is a very important election. All retirees will get a ballot in the mail. They are mailed on Nov. 15th and must be returned by Dec. 5th. We have very good candidates this year but the SCARE Board is supporting John Pels. He is currently a SCARE board member and has served in that capacity for many years. He has also represented retirees on the SCERA board for many years in the past and will continue to support our concerns in the future.

John Pels — I am seeking your vote for the Retiree representative (8th Board Member position) on the Sonoma County Employees Retirement Board. While employed at the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, Detention Division, I served as a Trustee for the Sonoma County Retirement System from 1997-2009. I was Chair of the Retirement Board and Chair of various committees. I moderated educational sessions designed for trustees and investment professionals for the State Association of California Retirement Systems. I am also a graduate of Grand Canyon University and have my Bachelor's Degree in Business Management.

I retired in January, 2010. After a short break, I returned to the Retirement Board as the retiree representative in 2013. I continued my education and devotion to my duties as a trustee. I serve as a fiduciary to the retirement system. I have a responsibility to manage the retirement system for the exclusive benefit for all of the systems' members and beneficiaries. I continued to serve as the retiree representative until 2020.

I joined the Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees (SCARE) in 2020 and have served as a Board Member for the last 3 years. I have continued my involvement with the Retirement System. I virtually attend Retirement Board meetings in effort to stay connected and informed with the performance of the system, policy changes and ongoing COLA discussions. I am dedicated to protect our retirement benefits and maximize those benefits going forward. I am asking for your trust and vote to return as your retiree representative.

Mark Walsh — Please select me to represent your interests on the retirement board. The board of trustees makes important decisions that impact the measurement and delivery of retirement benefits. You deserve a representative that is willing and able to engage others in complex government finance conversations that impact the measurement of benefits.

I have experience serving on the board of trustees for the Sonoma County Employees Retirement Association and the Marin County Employees Retirement Association. Marin County's defined benefit plan benefits include an ongoing COLA; Sonoma County's plan does not. I was elected four times to serve on Sonoma County's retirement board; and served on the Marin County retirement board when the Marin County Board of Supervisors selected me as their first Director of Finance, to consolidate the offices of Treasurer-Tax Collector, Auditor-Controller and Public Administrator.

My experience with government finance, budget, accounting and retirement system funding policies spans over 30 years; and includes government employment in Sonoma and Marin counties, and private sector client services delivered as a practicing CPA.

For Sonoma County, I worked as an Accountant I (Sheriff's Office); staff auditor; budget analyst (CAO); Assistant Auditor-Controller, and Information Systems Director. For Marin County I worked as the Director of Finance. In the private sector, I worked for Brion Economics, LLC, performing comparative fiscal analysis of cities and counties.

In my CPA practice, I've conducted fiscal health assessments for and consulted on retirement funding alternatives for city clients. For labor groups, I have performed financial analysis of information in support of negotiations and preparation for fact finding.

I am thankful and honored to have worked with great government employees in Sonoma County.

Continued on next page

SCERA Elections continued

Neil Baker — You won't get a ballot for the alternate position as Neil is running unopposed. We thought our members would still be interested in his background. "I have represented SCERA and its members for over 40 years, both as an employee and a retiree. For much of that time I was the legal counsel and, since 2015, I have served as the 8th Alternate Member. I think this is an especially important period for SCERA. A process is underway to evaluate a possible retiree cost-of-living-adjustment and I am a member of the subcommittee that has been established to work on that issue. Ultimately, only the County can make a final decision regarding such a benefit. However, SCERA can play a significant role and I believe that because of my background and experience I can make a substantial contribution to this process".

Summary of the American Red Cross Presentation at the August Membership Meeting

Vincent Valenzuela, the Disaster Program Manager for Sonoma, Solano and Napa, provided information on the various services provided by the American Red Cross (ARC). It provides services locally, across the country and around the world. Major service categories include Disaster Cycle Services, Biomedical Services, Service to the Armed Forces, International Services and Training Services. They received no government funding – all funding comes from donations. Some interesting facts:

- 90% of the money donated to them goes for services.

- 90% of the work force is volunteer.

- They work with local agencies to develop plans for dealing with disasters.

- They respond to both large disasters and loss of individual homes. ARC volunteers go house to house after a disaster to see what damage was done and what is needed.

- They provided support for 81 large disasters occurring from Jan. – March 2023 with 22 being very large disasters in the U.S.

- They provide emergency response training programs for kids.

- Install home smoke alarms and assist with fire escape plans.

- They provide more blood than any other blood bank with donations averaging 12,000/day.

- They provide 400,000 measles or rubella vaccination worldwide working with partners.

- Provided training in first aid, CPR, AED, swim and lifeguard classes, and emergency preparedness to over 5 million people in 2022.

Go to redcross.org to get more information on how to be prepared and to volunteer.

There were many more details available in the Power Point presentation. It is available on our website at <https://www.sonomacountyretirees.com/helpfulinfo.shtml>

Alphabet Soup by Bill Robotka

ICPC met on October 5th and continued to educate new members. Julie Wyne went through a number of SCERA reports explaining and discussing many aspects of them. Next session is set for December 7th, and will be focused on debriefing from the SCERA annual planning retreat and the preparation of the annual Report to the BOS on the pension.

I thought many retirees might not be familiar with the North Bay Labor Council (NBLC). It is one of nearly 500 state and local labor councils acting as an arm of the AFL-CIO. Labor Councils are the heart of the labor movement. NBLC represents over 70 thousand working people and some 70 union affiliates in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, and Marin Counties. The Labor Council is a democratically elected body dedicated to represent the interests of working people at the state and local level. We mobilize our members and community partners to advocate for social and economic justice. NBLC works to elect candidates to public office who support Labor Standards and will stand by working people. The North Bay Labor Council strives daily to vanquish oppression and make our communities better for all people—regardless of race, color, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, immigration status, ethnic or national origin.

Stay Safe from Scams

We know a lot of our members bank with Redwood Credit Union. One of our members recently received a call that she thought was from Redwood Credit Union telling her that her account had been hacked and asking her to withdraw money. She went to her bank and was told they did not contact her although the part about her computer being hacked was taken seriously. I wondered how an impostor got her account number, so I went to my local branch and talked to the manager. Several incidents like the above have been reported recently - this was not an isolated case. The manager's primary message was **'IF SOMEONE SAYING THEY ARE FROM RCU CONTACTS YOU BY PHONE OR EMAIL AND ASKS YOU FOR ANY INFORMATION ON YOUR ACCOUNT, IMMEDIATELY HANG UP AND CALL RCU AT 707-545-4000.** This applies to any other bank, credit card company or IRS. **Do not give out your private information.**

Redwood Credit union then provided us with the following information on avoiding current scams.

Redwood Credit Union serves to elevate your financial well-being and help protect the financial well-being of our entire community. Scams and fraud are on the rise, and we're committed to helping you protect yourself. Here are the most common ways scammers try to get your private information and what you should do:

Spoofed Calls

Scammers can manipulate a phone call to look like it's coming from a reputable source, such as a financial institution, law enforcement, IRS, utility companies, and other business or professional organizations.

If someone calls you claiming to be from a business or organization and you have any doubt, hang up and call the verified customer service number. Or simply JUST HANG UP!

Phishing Emails

Scammers will send emails that appear to be from reputable source or reliable organizations. Don't click any suspicious links and don't give your info to anyone who contacts you out of the blue.

Legitimate organizations never call, email, or text to ask for your account or personal information.

Wire Fraud

Scammers often pressure you to wire money to them because wire transfers are final transactions and are very difficult to reverse.

Never send a wire to a new recipient without due diligence and never wire money to a stranger or someone you have just met, no matter the reason.

You should report wire fraud to the FBI at www.ic3.gov

Romance Scams

Scammers will often try to rush a new relationship, but refuse to video chat or meet you in person.

Be cautious of anyone who claims they will provide for you while in a relationship with them. Don't provide credit or debit card, or account information to a person with whom you are in a new relationship.

Never send money to an online-only romance, don't accept deposits from them, and never make purchases for them.

How to protect yourself from identity theft:

If your information is stolen, credit freezes and fraud alerts can protect you from identity theft and prevent further misuse of your personal information.

Credit monitoring services can contact you immediately if someone were to attempt to open a credit card or take out a loan in your name.

Ways of preventing against child identity theft:

Child identity theft is happening more frequently, so children's credit checks should be conducted once a year. These checks can be done for free at AnnualCreditReport.com

For children under 16, you can request a free credit freeze to make it harder for someone to open new accounts in your child's name.

A credit freeze will remain in place until the parent or guardian advises the credit bureaus to remove it. Minors who are 16 or 17 can request and remove a security freeze themselves.

Use these telephone numbers to contact the three major credit bureaus: Equifax 1 (800) 685-1111, Experian 1 (888) 397-3742, and TransUnion 1 (888) 909-8872

For more tips on protecting yourself from scams and fraud, visit our online fraud and security center at redwoodcu.org/security

SCARE COLA Committee

We are waiting to hear Julie Wyne's report to us at our November 28th Membership Meeting (see page 2 for more information). Also waiting for policy discussion at the SCERA December 14th Board Meeting on whether to recommend changes to the Negative Contingency Reserve and the Interest Fluctuation Reserve. Changes are needed to both of these reserves if we are ever to get COLAs. We encourage our members to attend by Zoom—see President's Report or Agenda. For more information on these issues, go to our website at <https://www.sonomacountyretirees.com/pensions.shtml>

SRJC Scholarship Awardees for 2023-24

SCARE annually gives 3 \$1,500 scholarships to students at SRJC who are children or grandchildren of Sonoma County employees or retirees.

Madalena German

Major - Dental Hygiene; Career Goal – Dental Hygienist

I have worked in the dental field for 8 years and have two kids that I'm trying to set the best example possible for. I have been awarded high honors and pride myself in my tenacity and hard work in school. I am so excited to begin dental hygiene school.

I plan to become a registered dental hygienist and work between 2 offices full time. I have close relationships with a lot of the general dentists in my local town who have already asked me to let them know when I'm done with the program so they can hire me. I am very excited about my future career and can't wait to start.

I am incredibly grateful for the funds provided from this scholarship and I cannot thank the donors enough. My husband has been working so hard to support our family while I'm in school and this money is enormously helpful while living on one income. I can breathe knowing we don't have to cut funds when there's not much to be cut as is. Thank you cannot be said enough.

Keel, Emma

Major – Engineering; Career Goal – Mechanical Engineer

I've been at SRJC for a year, and before my college journey I excelled in my academics all throughout my education. I was taught to value great effort and achievement, and I've grown an insurmountably deeper appreciation for hard work ever since attending SRJC.

Making things and tinkering with moving parts is something I greatly enjoy, along with being able to apply mathematics and sciences to what I make, and I was able to narrow my career choice down to mechanical engineering. I'm currently studying engineering at SRJC to earn an Associate in Science in Engineering, and plan to transfer to a 4-year institution for a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

I am deeply honored and thankful to be awarded this scholarship; your kindness will go great lengths in helping support me in my academic and future career. With this scholarship, I will be able to allot these funds towards my academics at SRJC, which will allow me to direct my personal savings towards my future career and save up for when I eventually transfer to a 4-year institution.

Julie Riggs

Major - Sociology (AA-T); Career Goal: Non-profit director, Equity Programs

My goal is to finish my AA-T in Sociology at SRJC this fall and transfer to a CSU and obtain my BA in Sociology. I plan to combine years of bookkeeping experience with the insight I acquire by studying social problems through a sociological lens and use that experience and education fueled by my passion for volunteering in programs that support educational and wellness opportunities for disadvantaged and marginalized youth to become a director or program manager for a social equity organization or manage equity-minded programs within a larger educational institution. I have seen the benefits of mentorship, guidance, and support and want to dedicate my career to serving our community.

I'm so grateful for the financial support to achieve my educational goals. I don't take this gift lightly! Receiving this scholarship is paramount and it is an honor to be chosen. Being a scholarship recipient instills hope and courage because someone else believes that you will achieve your dream too and is investing in you to do so.

Tackling the Opioid Crisis Head-On in Sonoma County

The opioid overdose epidemic stands as a towering crisis of our times, leaving trails of tragedy across the nation and our close-knit community in Sonoma County. Since 1999, the haunting tally of lives lost to drug overdoses across the United States has surged past one million. The grim statistics show a disturbing acceleration in fatal overdoses, with 2021 witnessing 106,699 heartbreaking deaths. Among these, opioids cast a long, grim shadow, implicated in 75% of the losses. Additionally older Americans have not been spared; deaths for people 65 and older rose 50% between 2019 and 2021.

In Sonoma County, the crisis claims its harsh toll. In 2021, the community mourned the loss of 122 cherished lives — mothers, fathers, siblings, friends leaving behind voids that no words can fill. Our community grapples with the third-highest per capita rate of fatal fentanyl overdoses in California, trailing only Mendocino and San Francisco counties.

Opioids, potent in pain management, come with a menacing duality. They span prescription forms like hydrocodone, oxycodone, and fentanyl, but also mask in illicit avatars, leaving a trail of devastation. Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin, emerges as the dark protagonist in the saga, causing a staggering 88% of opioid-related fatalities in 2021, a devastating loss of 70,762 lives.

This formidable adversary is deceptive in its potency, lacing supplies unbeknownst to users, and striking with lethal force. Fentanyl, despite not being the preferred choice for many, lurks ominously in the shadows of the opioid supply chain due to its chilling efficiency and terrifying strength. Illicit fentanyl has permeated the drug supply because of its remarkably low cost and potent nature, which facilitates easier smuggling.

Face 2 Face: A Beacon of Hope and Support

In 1983, in the crucible of the HIV/AIDS crisis, Face 2 Face was born as a beacon of hope. Over decades, it has woven a tapestry of community support, prevention, education, and compassionate case management to address numerous public health issues in partnership with many organizations, including Sonoma County's Department of Public Health, and the Santa Rosa Treatment Program (S RTP).

Embracing evolution to meet the urgent calls of the community, Face 2 Face expanded its arms in 2015, introducing the syringe service program rooted in harm reduction. This initiative, extends a lifeline to those in the shadows, offering syringes, testing for HIV/HEP C, and vital supplies like Narcan and fentanyl test strips, forging paths to safety and care.

Narcan stands as a guardian in the opioid crisis, a swift responder to reverse overdoses, breathing life back into fading hopes. At Face 2 Face, the doors stand open, welcoming all with a promise of help, guidance, and free access to Narcan, along with essential training in the administering of Narcan.

Connecting with Face 2 Face

Seek out the support and services offered by Face 2 Face at 873 Second Street, Santa Rosa. We welcome walk-ins from Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Reach out to us at 707-544-1582 for mobile program locations. *Additionally, Face 2 Face stands ready to provide an onsite educational program to SCARE members at a future membership meeting, should members express interest in an onsite presentation.*

The above article was submitted by Nicholas Herring, Face 2 Face Mobile Services Coordinator, to help inform SCARE members about the opioid crisis across America and in Sonoma County.

Are you looking for things to do?

SRJC has free older adult classes <https://older-adults.santarosa.edu/> They have art for older adults, autobiographical writing, discussion group, fitness for older adults, and musical experience. There are a lot of classes in each group. Most are online but there are some in-person ones although they fill up more quickly. It's too late for the fall semester but look for the class schedule for the Spring Semester the first of the year.

Updating Contact Information

If you move or change your email or phone number, you need to give your **updated information** to the following organizations. They do not share information.

SCARE - send changes to Lou Maricle via email at maricles2@gmail.com, or address to 4720 Santa Rosita Ct, Santa Rosa, CA 95405, or call 707 538-7342. We also need changes of phone numbers and email addresses. And if we don't hear from you, this is what happens: Mail and newsletters were returned with no forwarding address for the following members - **Mira Bosche, April Harris, Delores McCord, and Cecilia Proschold**. Board member, **Alix Shor**, attempts to contact these people by phone and/or email but has not been able to reach them so we have no way of contacting them. If anyone knows how to reach them, would you please contact them and ask them to contact Alix Shor at alixshor@sonic.net or 707 495-4992 or give her their number and she'll call them.

SCERA - You get your pension check from them. Contact them to report changes at 433 Aviation Blvd., Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95403, or call them at 707 565-8100.

Sonoma County Human Resources Benefits Unit - They handle health, dental, and life insurance and send out Open Enrollment Booklets. Contact them at 575 Administration Drive, Suite 116C, SR, 95403, or benefits@sonoma-county.org, or 707-565-2900.

Free Entrance to California State Parks through the Sonoma County Library

This includes Mendocino libraries. You can check out a **California State Library Parks Pass** just the way you check out a book. You will get a vehicle hangtag with the words "California State Library Parks Pass" that allows you to get into State Parks free. If you go online to library and do a search on the pass, it shows you passes available at each library.

In Memoriam

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

Jennifer Avelar-Arevalo Kay Barcellos

Pattie Bestie Robert Gaiser

Armando Gomez Ana Elizabeth Gray

Jane Gutierrez Deborah Haas

John Loy Beverly Lucas

Marth Lukens Bonnie Lyon

Joan Pierce

My sincerest apologies for erroneously listing Ken Adamson in this section in the last newsletter.

New Link to Services for Seniors on our Website

<https://www.sonomacountyretirees.com/othersites.shtml>

www.caring.com is a website that provides extensive information on a great variety of services available to seniors. This ranges from detail on the various options available to you and/or spouse under Social Security as well as information on assisted living, in home care, and memory care near where you live (just enter your zip code). It has over 100 different categories under the caregivers link that range from wills and estate planning, reverse mortgages, how to pay for long term care, best identity theft protection and so many more. They appear to be well researched and quite thorough in their articles. While it is under caregivers, it is information that many retirees can use for themselves or their aging parents.

Do It Yourself (DIY) Energy and Water Savings Toolkits are available for checkout at all branches of the Sonoma County Library

The Toolkits include the tools and information necessary for customers to perform their own home upgrade projects to weather strip windows and doors, monitor electrical usage, find water leaks and make their homes more efficient with LED lightbulbs. There are several things that you can keep — low flow aerators for bathroom and kitchen faucets; low flow showerheads (2); LED lightbulbs, and more. Sonoma County Library cardholders can check out the kits for up to three (3) weeks.

Congratulations New Retirees and New SCARE Members (in bold)



Aguillon Misty – Superior Court
 Alcalá Jose – Sheriff's Office
 Alvarez Azuzena
Becerra Cynthia – Human Services
 Birky Wendy – Information Systems
 Bos Jordan
 Brady Martin – Transportation & Public Works
 Calderon Efrain – Probation
 Carlozzi Steven – Sheriff's Office
Carroll Paul – Human Resources
Cervantes Lisa – Child Support
 Charan Kanchan – Auditor, Controller, Treasurer
 Chavez, Carlos
 Coleman, David – Probation
 Crane Kenneth – Health Services
 Dengler Roger – Health Services
 Diaz Matthew – Health Services
 Ekaterina Victorino – Human Services
 Fonseca Cheryl – Water Agency
 Garcia Rafael – Sheriff's Office
 Gilmore Robert – Probation
Guenther Karen – Human Services
 Gutierrez Gary – Human Services
 Guzman Leticia Huerta – Human Services
 Hals Gregory, Jr.
 Hanna Keith – Permit & Resource Management
 Hardin Andrea
 Herman Christopher
 Kadin Jill – Regional Parks
 Keller Francine – Sheriff
 Leeuwen Amy Van – Human Services
Lehmann Linda – Probation
 Maberry Michael – Human Services
 MacDonald Benita – Permit & Resource Management
 MacLeod – Matthew
 Madsen Kristen – Economic Development Board
 McMullin – Matthew
 Morris-Dadzie Frankie – Human Services
 Muniz-Bottomley Kristin
Oatis Anna Marie – Clerk/Recorder/Assessor
 Peirsol Thomas – Sheriff's Office
 Piercy James – Health Services
Pineda de Galli Veronica – Probation

New Retirees continued:

Reynoso Christine – Superior Court
 Rodriguez Jaime -- Corrections
 Skinner Peter -- Corrections
 Starrett Meredith
 Taylor Rowan Shinohara
 Van Leeuwen Amy – Human Services
 Waters Marianne – Human Services
 Weger Maranee
Wheeldin Anthony – Superior Court

Encourage Fellow Retirees to join SCARE!

While we add 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 and keep up to date on what is happening to retirees. They can call Patty Hamley at (707) 579-1726 to get a copy of our application form or go to our website — <http://sonomacountyretirees.com/application.pdf>

Reminder—SCARE has its own Facebook Page

This is a private (closed) group meaning that the public may not view the contents, and membership must be requested and approved. For those of you already on Facebook, it can be found by searching for Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees (SCARE)" or using the direct link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/socoretirees> To join the group, go to the page and at the top you will see a box that indicates "Join Group." Once I verify you are indeed a member of SCARE, or are a spouse of a member, you will be added. Bob Bulwa

SCARE Membership and Financial Information

SCARE currently has 1698 members and 165 associate members for a total of 1863 members. We do not include our financial information in the newsletter, but if you are interested, contact me and I can provide you with a copy of our financial statement (contact information on page 2). I can send this information to you either via email or postal service.

Chris Bauer

**Board and Membership Meeting Minutes
can be viewed at our website**

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

Address Service Requested

General Membership Meeting November 28, 2023

Join us at 12:30 for an in-person meeting at Finley Center, 2060 W College Ave, SR in the Cypress Room. There will be snacks and drinks and the opportunity to visit with friends.

Vaccinations encouraged if attending in person

Then for those of you who can't attend in person, join us at 1:00 pm for the meeting on Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8954632781> or you can dial in at +6694449171, Meeting ID 8954632781# US

MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

- I. SPEAKER — Julie Wyne will give us update on what is happening related to COLAs —see page 2 for more info**
- II. JLMBC REPORT**
- III. SCCLO/ICPC REPORT**
- IV. SCARE BOARD ELECTIONS**
- V. DRAWING FOR GIFT CARDS (3 for those at Finley and 3 for those on Zoom)
Must be present to win**