

MINUTES OF RSG MEMBER MEETING OF JUNE 1, 2017

Diane A. Pipes, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Douglas Pipes at 10:05 a.m.

Board member Jack Funk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chair Pipes then announced that since more than 40 members had signed in for the meeting, the quorum requirement was met.

Vice Chair Pipes explained that he was chairing the meeting due to the absence of Chair Pat Patterson, who is out of town.

Elections Committee Chair Alan Schulze explained in response to a member's inquiry that any member who loses his or her elections envelope for our Special Election may simply replace it with a blank envelope, print his or her name on the outside of the envelope, sign the back outside of the envelope, and mail it to RSG. Alan agreed to accept any such ballot at the meeting, so that members who had brought them to the meeting need not mail them to RSG.

Vice Chair Pipes stated that as of the previous day RSG had received 424 valid ballot envelopes and 8 invalid ballots that won't be counted.

Vice Chair Pipes announced that RSG Secretary Elaine Grothman had suffered a stroke and was hospitalized in John Muir Hospital. Mr. Pipes advised that members who would like to send her a get-well card could send it to her home address, which Vice Chair Pipes gave to the audience.

Vice Chair Pipes also announced that RSG member Ace Edkin is experiencing very difficult health problems. He asked the members to keep Elaine and Dale Grothmann and Barbara and Ace Edkin in their thoughts and prayers.

There were two RSG members (one member and one spouse of a member) in attendance for the first time. These members were introduced.

Vice Chair Pipes then introduced Roylene Stack and thanked her for filling in for Barbara Edkin at the sign-in table.

Vice Chair Pipes explained that each member who wanted a Certificate from our guest speakers for attending the program must stay through the entire program and pick up the Certificate at the end of the program. Then the Certificate may be presented to the member's insurance company for a possible reduction in the member's automobile insurance rates.

Vice Chair Pipes then introduced Diane Pipes, an RSG member who was the acting Secretary for the meeting filling in for Elaine Grothmann in her absence.

Vice Chair Pipes then advised that RSG will probably need to have more RSG members to volunteer to report the minutes of our future meetings until Elaine is well enough to return. He requested members who are willing to volunteer for this duty to contact RSG.

A motion was then made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April member meeting. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion passed.

RSG Treasurer Terry Mann then presented the Treasurer's Report, saying that all checks received have been deposited, and all bills had been paid. No financial details were reported verbally at the meeting, but Vice Chair Pipes advised that any RSG member who wants to know details of RSG's financial statement need only ask the Treasurer to see the details and those details will be shared.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. That motion was passed by member vote.

Director Louie Kroll reported that the August meeting will host the RSG members' annual barbecue luncheon. The luncheon this year will be catered by the same restaurant which catered our February Health Insurance Settlement Celebration luncheon, as we received many positive comments from members about the food at the February luncheon.

RSG Member Thelma Wheeler agreed to take any leftover food from the August barbecue to the Women's Shelter in Contra Costa County.

RSG Webmaster Steve Ojeda gave a report on the RSG website. Steve advised that very few people have been looking at the newly redesigned website, which is very attractive. Steve encouraged all members to access the website and tell RSG what they think of the redesign of the site.

In response to a member's question whether the RSG website is an encrypted site, Steve advised that it is not an encrypted site, which means that anyone can look at it. The address for the site can be obtained by entering the words "Retiree Support Group Contra Costa County," and one's computer will provide the URL for the site.

Board Director Jack Funk gave a report on the August Barbecue, which will have barbecued ribs and chicken, salad, and beans.

Jack also reported on the status of the CCCERA "Clawback" initiative. Jack advised that only 15 retirees are pending administrative hearings to be held later in 2017.

Other than these 15 retirees, the Clawback initiative is pretty much concluded. There is a chance that the hearings for these 15 retirees will be resolved.

Vice Chair Pipes then announced that the Special Election for the proposed bylaws amendments and changes to the RSG Health Insurance Defense Fund and members' special dues to fund that Defense Fund is ongoing. Ballot packages have been mailed to all RSG members and ballots are due to be returned to RSG not later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 12th.

Vice Chair Pipes encouraged members who have not yet returned their ballots to do so without delay. As of May 31st, RSG had received 424 valid ballots and 8 invalid ballots.

In response to a question from a member in the audience, Vice Chair Pipes explained the provisions and effects of the three questions on the ballot in the special election.

For years RSG has collected \$10 per member per month in dues. \$2.00 of these dues are normal member dues. \$8.00 of the dues have been set aside and spent for the RSG health insurance litigation fund that would only be spent to fund a potential lawsuit against the County for its proposed changes to our health insurance coverage. Now that the health insurance litigation is concluded, the RSG Board has voted to rename the special fund as the Retiree Allowances and Benefits Fund, so it can be used to fight to protect retirement benefits on a broader scale than just health insurance benefits. The RSG Board also voted to suspend collection of the \$8.00 portion of the member dues when the Special Fund reaches \$500,000.00. The Board has also voted to transfer \$100,000.00 from the RSG general account to the special Retiree Health Benefits Fund to enable RSG to reach the \$500,000.00 as soon as possible.

In order to take these actions, the RSG bylaws must be amended. The RSG Board has voted to amend the bylaws to allow the suspension of the \$8.00 per month portion of member dues.

Finally, the Board voted to amend the bylaws to prohibit RSG from using RSG funds to financially support any candidates for political office at any level, and to prohibit RSG from contributing RSG funds to support or oppose any legislation or ballot initiative, except those which directly and uniquely affect members of RSG and public retirees generally.

In order for these bylaws amendments to take effect, the RSG members must join the Board of Directors in approving the amendments. That is the purpose of the Special Election.

The RSG Board of Directors encourages all RSG members to vote to approve all three ballot questions in this special election.

In response to another member's question, Vice Chair Pipes advised that RSG has not considered having a cost-of-living provision that would enable RSG to increase the special fund limit from \$500,000.00 to a higher figure, but that we could always make that change in the future.

Vice Chair Pipes then introduced the two presenters from the Contra Costa Office of the California Highway Patrol. The two speakers were Officer Brandon Correia, the Public Information Officer for the Contra Costa CHP Office, and Cindy Lima, an RSG member and retiree from the County Employment & Human Services Department. Cindy is the Age Well/Drive Smart Program Coordinator for Contra Costa County.

The rest of the program was devoted to presentations from Officer Correia and Ms. Lima on issues of how senior citizens can maximize their safe driving for themselves and their family members. The program lasted almost 90 minutes and produced many questions from RSG members in the audience.

Following the program, Vice Chair Pipes thanked Officer Correia and Ms. Lima and stated that because this program is so useful to our members, the RSG Board will consider scheduling the same program every couple of years.

Because the meeting had reached 12:00 noon, the member sharing item of the Agenda was continued to the August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.