

RETIREE SUPPORT GROUP OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
MINUTES
August 3, 2017

1. Opening -

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Pat Patterson, at 10:09 AM. Steve Ojena led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pat welcomed members to the meeting; there were no members attending for the first time. A quorum was present for the meeting. Pat reminded members that our October meeting will include Election of Officers for RSG; The offices of Chair and Secretary are both up for election as well as the Board member at large seats currently held by Glenda Edwards and Louie Kroll. We will definitely need a quorum present.

Pat noted for the members present that we recently lost three members of RSG who had contributed greatly to the organization: Ace Edkin, Benny Best, and former Chair, Bill Hamilton.

2. Minutes from the June 1, 2017, meeting - There were two names misspelled in the minutes: Roylen Stack, and Elaine Grothmann. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected; motion passed unanimously. Thank you to Diane Pipes for recording the minutes in Elaine's absence.

3. Treasurer's Report - Terry Mann

Terry reported that per the vote of the members, he moved \$100,000 from the General Fund to the RSG retiree allowances and benefits litigation fund. We are now half-way to the goal for this fund. All bills have been paid, and all income has been deposited. It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report; motion passed unanimously.

4. Status Reports -

Louie Kroll: Pat Patterson gave Louie's report since Louie was doing preparations for the luncheon. The Benefits Manager and staff will be the speakers for the October meeting. They don't yet know when open enrollment will be; they think it will be in October. Should it be necessary to change the date of the October meeting to accommodate open enrollment dates, a notice will be sent out to all members.

Steve Ojena: The website has been updated; access it at www.rsgofccc.com. Since July 6th, there have been 18 views. Since it is very new, Steve is not yet sure how to go back to check the number of hits to the website beyond one month.

Jack Funk: There was an odd development in the Clawback situation. There are 16-individuals awaiting action on their appeals; CCCERA divided them into 4-groups. The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) who was assigned to them said that any decisions made will be broader than the plaintiffs' attorneys wanted. The CCCERA Board went into Executive Session with them. The result is that all pending hearings have been canceled and taken from that ALJ. There is no way to know where the Board is now going with this. All of the affected individuals worked in the Health Services Department prior to retirement. The issue was that CCCERA deemed that some of the items included in the computation of these individuals' pensions were not "pensionable."

Doug Pipes: Doug explained that, membership has dropped by 100-members. By the nature of a retiree organization, we do lose members who pass away. We haven't had new members join in the sufficient numbers to replace the members we have lost. The Board is considering sending out letters just to retirees who are not already members using a new feature permitted by

CCCERA. It is short-sighted of retirees who choose not to join because the health care lawsuit has been settled. There are other potential threats and we need to be prepared to fight should it become necessary. Doug plans to propose to the Board that we send a letter to all members explaining why it is important not to drop out now.

Suggestion: should we put a Facebook post on about it? If someone might be interested in setting up a Facebook page for RSG, please let the Board know. Too many retirees don't even know RSG exists. We have done many mailings in the past to tell retirees about our organization, but we can't force people to open their mail.

CCCERA is now doing monthly meetings for employees considering retirement. CCCREA has made presentations at these meetings. However, CCCERA never told RSG about the meetings. RSG will now also be represented. Doug created an information sheet that can be used for such presentations.

Survivors and beneficiaries of deceased County retirees can also be members of RSG. Doug will address this in any letter he prepares. Suggestion: put in a "fear factor"; give people a way to talk to someone before they commit. Everyone gets so much junk mail that whatever we send must have something "eye-catching." Maybe we should consider changing the name of RSG to something like "Retiree and Survivors" group. Or add, after our name, "and Survivors." Maybe put on it the catch phrase, "The County is not your friend." But the County isn't the enemy, either, so this should be worded carefully; not everyone likes the negativity of this phrase.

Sometimes you must offer benefits to attract new members. Maybe RSG could pay for peoples' AARP memberships through their dues. Pat said that when he worked for the County, there was a sense of family with the people he worked with. All of that changed. However, there are lots of things going on that we need to work with the County on, so we don't want to be seen as adversarial. We need to keep lines of communication with the County open.

Jack Funk said that he was recruited as a member by Steve Ojema talking to him at the gym. Maybe members consciously talking about RSG to other retirees will help. Another member said that organizations that get the most participation are those that include both spouses at no additional cost.

5. Group Information Sharing -

Elaine Grothmann thanked everyone for their cards and good wishes during her recent illness.

Alan Schulze thanked Sandy Hawkins, Deborah Thompson, and Mike Sloan for helping to count ballots for the recent election.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM to the annual luncheon, this time provided by the restaurant Sticky Chicken and Ribs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Grothmann,
Secretary