

RETIREE SUPPORT GROUP OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

MINUTES

June 7, 2018

Pacheco Community Center, Martinez, CA

1. Opening

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by Chair Pat Patterson. A quorum was present and we said the Pledge of Allegiance. Four new members were in attendance; they are retirees from the Library, District Attorney's Office, General Services, and EHSD.

2. Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes of our April 5, 2018 meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report

Terry Mann gave the Treasurer's Report. All submitted bills have been paid. Bills for printing have been slow reaching us. Terry reported the balances in our General and Legal Funds.

4. Status Reports

Steve Ojena gave a brief report about our website. During the last month there were 116 visitors who looked at 192 pages. Average time on the website was 3 minutes, 21 seconds. One of the new members at today's meeting said he used the RSG website to sign up and found it to be very useful. Doug pointed out that future County retirees going to pre-retirement sessions should be told about RSG and CCCREA. Otherwise, many new retirees don't know about these organizations. We should have a RSG representative present at those sessions to give a brief presentation to employees about to retire.

Doug discussed last year's recruitment letter that was mailed out to all non-CCCRSG County retirees and resulted in about 200 new members. It cost \$6,000 to mail the letter but was a very good investment. Our membership grew from about 1,200 to 1,400, which increased the monthly dues by an additional \$24,000 per year. One of the new members here today said he joined because of the recruitment letter.

Christine Sevier, our future webmaster, asked by a show of hands how many members in attendance use Facebook as a possible way to reach out to members. About one-third of attendees at today's meeting use Facebook.

Jack Funk announced that today's barbecue luncheon is being catered by Sticky Chicken and Ribs, which has previously done a good job for us. We are also open for suggestions regarding other catering businesses. Due to a communications problem we didn't have any

coffee for the start of the meeting. Christine Sevier volunteered to go out to get some for us and was back shortly with the needed caffeine.

5. CalPers Long-Term Care Lawsuit

Mike Sloan reported on the CalPers long-term care lawsuit. CalPers began signing up retirees for long-term care in 1995 without factoring in actuarial data. In March 2013 they increased premiums by 83%. This resulted in a lawsuit that became a class action in 2015 with 122,000 individuals. Recently a \$9.75 million settlement was reached with the actuarial firm that was included in the class action. The average amount to the 122,000 plaintiffs is \$65.00 each. The class action continues against CalPers and the CalPers representatives tried to have the court decertify the class. At a May 11, 2018 hearing the judge denied a decertification motion. A trial is currently scheduled for November 9, 2018 but probably won't happen this year. It could be rescheduled for May 2019. If won, the attorneys for the plaintiff class could add back in original plaintiffs, some of whom have since passed away. An attendee at today's meeting who has had experience with long-term care spoke about its disadvantages, namely too much stalling and delays.

6. Group Information Sharing

Jerry Tellis spoke about Nodge Irwin, a dear friend of the RSG who passed away about two months ago. Nodge joined the group shortly after its startup and soon became a Board member.

Nodge was involved in finding the first regular meeting place for our group, at the DSA hall, where we had our meetings for many years before moving to the Pacheco Community Center. Steve Ojena added that Nodge was very involved in recruiting new members. He often went to events attended by retirees and would speak with them one-to-one with an invitation to join RSG.

Christine Sevier recently attended a Concord local community senior resources event and picked up brochures on senior benefits availability. Mike Sloan also mentioned that the CCCREA has put on an information fair with RSG in the past and might like to join forces on this event again. Mike and Christine are going to work on setting this up and will report back to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. for a delicious barbecue lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wallgren, Assistant Secretary