

**RETIREE SUPPORT GROUP OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
APRIL 4, 2019**

**Opening**

Pat Patterson called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. A quorum was present. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

The minutes of our February 7, 2019, meeting have been approved by the Board.

**Treasurer's Report**

Terry Mann gave the Treasurer's Report and mentioned the balances in our General and Retirement Benefits Litigation Funds. Effective April 2019, dues are now \$2.00 per month.

**Status Reports**

Louie Kroll – We will have a luncheon and no speaker at our June meeting. Mike George will be representing us at the CCCERA retirement workshop on June 27, 2019.

Steve Ojena – Last month there were 133 visits to our website.

Jack Funk - He is no longer a practicing lawyer. Jack gave us a short summary of the Cal Fire service credit buy-back. Under the California Rule, government pensions cannot be reduced without giving an equitable benefit in exchange.

The Alameda County lawsuit has been completely briefed. No date has been set yet for oral arguments. Jack believes it may be at the end of this year or early in 2020.

**New RSG Member**

New RSG of CCC member Gabe Rodriguez attended today's meeting. He served as a Deputy Sheriff and just retired on Saturday.

**New Board Member**

Fran Carlson is a new Board member taking over Glenda Edwards' former position as Board Member-at-Large Seat #2.

**Report on CalPers Long-Term Health Care Litigation**

Mike Sloan – The trial is still scheduled for June 10, 2019; however, Judge Jones was asked to sit pro tem on the Court of Appeal. The parties have completed discovery and have also filed a number of pretrial motions (known as motions in limine). This is a motion, at the beginning of a trial, to request that certain evidence or testimony be excluded. There will be a two-day hearing on May 14-15, 2019, for the Court to address the motions in limine and to finalize the witness and exhibits lists.

We want to remind class members who have not yet cashed their checks from the Towers Watson partial settlement that the void date on uncashed checks has been extended. Any class members who have not cashed their checks are asked to please do so immediately. Any class members who have not received a check should call the Settlement Administrator, Heffler Claims Group, at 1-844-528-0188 right away.

Michael Bidart will attend the April 17 CRCEA Conference in San Diego so he can bring attendees up to date regarding the ongoing lawsuit.

Mike gave an update on Health Net that may be of interest to those retiring in one to five years. Craig Taylor, of Benefits Division, indicated there will be no more Health Net due to cost factors.

### **June 6, 2019 Annual Luncheon**

Jack did a show-of-hands survey (Mexican vs barbeque) to see what we would like for the June luncheon. We chose Mexican. The caterer will be serving around 10:30 a.m.

Thelma let us know that according to a law passed by the State of California, no more leftover food can be given to homeless shelters.

### **Guest Speaker Le'Reina Skidmore of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office**

Ms. Skidmore is a Sheriff Specialist with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office who is involved in dealing with the public. She gave a presentation on basic crime prevention.

Scams – Robocalls, emails, or callers pretending to be from a bank, Social Security, the IRS, fake contests/awards, etc. They are “phishing” for personal information to do identity fraud. Doug asked about the best way to handle robocalls. Probably the best way is to have your name and number put on a “Do Not Call” list. You could also not answer calls from unknown phone numbers or just let it go to voicemail. Legitimate callers will usually leave a message.

ID Theft – If you believe your identify has been stolen, immediately notify one of the three credit agencies (such as Equifax) who will notify the other two agencies. Always check your bank account and credit cards statements each month for accuracy. Doug suggested keeping your receipts to compare against monthly statements to catch any fraud. An attendee mentioned knowing of a person whose identity was stolen by someone using an online search to take over their identity, resulting in the person losing their home.

Home Security – Keep your doors and windows locked. Use your security system; turn it on even if you leave home for only a few minutes.

911 – For emergencies only, such as home intrusions, injuries, fire, and life or death situations. Keep your house number lit up on your home and also painted on the curb. If you need an officer for non-emergencies, call 925-646-2444.

Preparedness – Keep an adequate supply of food, water, and medication on hand for your family and pets in the event of natural disasters such as earthquakes, fire, or floods.

Pat thanked Ms. Skidmore for her helpful presentation and offered a \$100 donation to her favorite organization, the Special Olympics.

### **Group Information Sharing**

Jack presented Doug Pipes, who is a RSG of CCC member but no longer a Board member, with a Stan Musial baseball jersey. Musial is Doug's favorite Cardinals baseball player and the jersey was given in appreciation of his long service and many contributions to RSG of CCC. Thank you, Doug!

An attendee asked if the Mass Mutual contract was ending.

Teresa LaCombe mentioned that the Pleasant Hill Library is still open, however the County wants to close the library and demolish it, then sell the land to a developer before construction on the new library has even begun. Our community will be without our library for 18 to 24 months or maybe longer.

She further stated that last week she found out that the library closure has been postponed until next spring because the permit process is behind schedule. But the County's plan is still to close the old library for 18 to 24 months while the new library is being built, she asked why not just keep it open?

The plan is to utilize the Senior Center, but it is too small. People are asked to go to the Board of Supervisors meetings to speak up about this issue. One member said the old library property may have already been sold so new homes can be built on it.

There was a discussion about Obama Care's impact on those with private insurance. It was one member's view that some people with "extreme views" are threatening our right to have private health insurance. This group wants everyone to have the same access to health care regardless of if they earned it or not.

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, June 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wallgren, Assistant Secretary