



NEWS & VIEWS

Retired Employees of the City & County of San Francisco, Inc.

President's Message

By Sue Blomberg, President

Anticipation. It's that feeling you have when you know something is about to happen. You think you know what it will be, and what you hope it will be; and why is it taking so long to arrive?

My favorite saying for quite some time has been "Life is what happens when you are making other plans." It's the opposite of anticipation. You look forward to something; then life gets in the way.



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Important Announcement from your RECCSF Executive Board

All members please take note.

The Executive Board has decided that it is time for RECCSF to follow the lead taken by other organizations into the electronic age.

To that end, commencing with the September issue, our News & Views newsletter will be delivered **only** by e-mail. By implementing this policy, we will be able to direct the resulting fiscal savings toward improved outreach and member services. We will also be able to deliver timely alerts to members on critical issues that arise between newsletters.

However, we know that some members do not have computer access, and will still need to receive their printed copy. If this is your circumstance, please mail a

note requesting a hard copy of the newsletter to the RECCSF Office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294. You only need to send one request.

If you are currently receiving the hard copy and also have an e-mail address that we don't know about, please e-mail it to the RECCSF office at reccsf@att.net, so that we can ensure a smooth transition.

We also wish to thank all of our members for ongoing support of all of our efforts to ensure our fiscal health, such as participation in our raffles and the voluntary donations at the refreshment table. Also, we wish to remind you that any direct donations made to the Friends of RECCSF are most appreciated.

May 2014 Calendar

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 14
 Socializing and refreshments:
 11:10 – 11:50 a.m.
 Program: 11:30 a.m.
 Business meeting: 12 p.m.
 Bingo: 12:45 p.m.
 Irish Cultural Center,
 45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

News & Views

Editorial Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 9 a.m.
 Taraval Police Station
 All interested parties welcome.

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 10 a.m.
 Taraval Police Station
 All interested parties welcome.

Public Meetings:

Retired Firemen & Widows Association

Thursday, May 15, 1 p.m.
 Irish Cultural Center,
 45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Veteran Police Officers

Tuesday, May 13, 11 a.m.
 Pacific Rod & Gun Club,
 520 John Muir Dr., at Lake Merced

Retirement System

Wednesday, May 14, 2 p.m.
 30 Van Ness, Suite 3000

Health Service System

Thursday, May 8, 1 p.m.
 City Hall, Room 416

UESF Retired Division

For time/location, contact
 Diane Doe at (415) 822-2099
Ddoe@mac.com

SEIU 1021 West Bay

Retirees Chapter
 Monday, May 19, 12-2 p.m.
 Union Hall, 350 Rhode Island St.,
 100 South Bldg.
 Claire Zvanski at (415) 341-3085 or
czvanski@hotmail.com

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New Members

Ralph C. Cooper	REC
Jan M. Leckliner	PDR
Berne Wangara	FIR
Kay Yatabe	DPH

President's Message

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way and it simply fades away, leaving only a memory of what might have been.

Our Annual luncheon was moved to the first Wednesday (June 4) because I would be going to England for three weeks; the trip is now off. The great anticipation of seeing the stately homes and gardens will have to wait for another time in the future.

We have the propensity to plan our lives around our anticipation of things we hope to experience. There are, of course, many events that we know will happen, and we're either happy (birthday), or sad (tax day), or just mildly interested in (Do *you* celebrate National Stamp Day?). We make plans based on what we think we can do in each of the situations. It's those plans that so often go awry.

We can't change yesterday. We can't predict tomorrow. What remains is today: living in the here and now; being aware of the present; life as it is.

And, what really matters in life is how we deal with whatever it is that life has handed us.

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

Membership and Subscriptions

Retired City Employees: annual membership is \$36 per year or \$400 for a lifetime (may be payable over four months or over four years in increments of \$100 per year).

- Subscription only is \$36 per year.
- Please download membership application form from our Web site, www.sfretirees.org.

News & Views is the publication of the Retired Employees of the City & County of San Francisco, Inc., a nonprofit organization. *News & Views* is published to express the policies, ideals and accomplishments of the organization. Nothing shall be published herein that is racist, sexist or ageist, or that is derogatory toward religious beliefs and other personal issues; nor shall be published anything in violation of Article VII, Section 1 of the RECCSF Constitution. Editorial contributions from individuals, organizations, and groups other than RECCSF and its members may be included in *News & Views* only upon the approval of the Editorial Committee. Subscriptions to *News & Views* are available for \$36 per year.

Submissions to *News & Views* are solicited and encouraged, and should be submitted to:

RECCSF Office, Attn: Sheila Mullen
3915 Irving Street, S.F., Ca. 94122-1294
Telephone: (415) 681-5949 Fax: (415) 681-5398
sheilamullen@mac.com

Sheila Mullen, Editor
RECCSF OFFICERS:
Sue Blomberg, President
Al Casciato, 1st Vice President
John Madden, 2nd Vice President
Claire Zvanski, Secretary
George Lau, Treasurer
Leo Martinez, Sergeant-at-Arms

Rest In Peace

The following members have recently passed away.

Helen P. Caldwell	BOE	Wesley H. Miller	CSC
Evelyn Craig	DPT	Jeffrey J. Moreau	DPT
Mary T. General	BOE	Annie P. Morgan	BOE
Jeffrey Marchant	DPT	George E. Schell	BOE

Useful Phone Numbers

S.F. Retirement System
Web site: www.sfgov.org/sfers
Phone Numbers:
(415) 487-7000 • (888) 849-0777

Health Service System
Web site: www.myhss.org
Phone Numbers:
(415) 554-1750 • (800) 541-2266
Phone Hours for both:
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Health Service Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski

HSS Director Catherine Dodd presided, with everyone very happy to see her. Lisa Ghotbi reported that the Dental Survey was sent to all retirees, with over 1500 responses already received.

Commissioner Scott began the rates and benefits process with 2015 Kaiser rates for actives and early retirees. Kaiser proposed a two-year rate guarantee. This is a fully insured benefit—meaning that Kaiser takes full financial risk. The Kaiser rate remains below the City's 10-county contribution,

so the City will save the difference. Gone are the days when the HSS trust fund would benefit (Proposition C). Kaiser is predicting that the experience will continue with an average annual decrease of 2% for 2015 and 2016 for actives and early retirees. The Board accepted their offer.

City Plan experience continues to be very positive with low claims experience. Ultimately, a rate reduction is anticipated but it is too early to finalize the rates for 2015. This good experience must continue to June for the rate reduction.

Dental rates for the retiree

HMO plans continue. The retiree Delta PPO awaits results from the survey before rate and benefit changes will be recommended. Pacific Union HMO rates are guaranteed through 2016, and DeltaCare HMO rates are guaranteed through 2015. Claire Zvanski brought up the issue of HMO plan interpretations of benefits; specifically, two cleanings per year. Commissioner Scott stated that two per year means two cleanings at any time during the plan year. The staff will review HMO plan benefit statements.

All Blue Shield ACO (accountable care organization) medical group CEOs attended and addressed the board. This is a flex-funded benefit, which means that the HSS trust fund takes the risk for claims. The ACOs have been very successfully coordinating care to keep costs down. They don't lose money if costs increase, but a policy for financial incentives needs to be developed. The overall quality of care has improved with the ACOs.

The Wellness Center is open on the first floor of 1145 Market for all members. HSS offices are now on the Third Floor.

Questions? Comments? Contact Health Service Committee Chair Ray Mason at (650) 344-1506, or Claire Zvanski at czvanski@hotmail.com or (415) 341-3085.

Treasurer-Tax Collector José Cisneros Keynote Speaker at RECCSF June 4 Luncheon

Mr. Cisneros will also administer the oath of office for our new officers and board members.

by Stephanie Lyons

José Cisneros has held the position of treasurer-tax collector since 2004. As treasurer, Mr. Cisneros serves as San Francisco's banker and chief investment officer, and manages tax and revenue collection for the City.

He has since launched the San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment; to further this work on a national level, San Francisco joined with New York City to create the *Cities for Financial Empowerment* coalition, a group of pioneering municipal governments from across the country working to advance innovative financial empowerment initiatives. Also, he created the concept of "Bank on San Francisco" to offer banking opportunities to those who have difficulty getting accounts at traditional banks.



Previously, Mr. Cisneros served as deputy general manager for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency. Prior to this, he worked for IBM Corporation and Lotus Development Corporation as a senior international product manager, and was an assistant vice-president at Bank of Boston. He received a B.S. from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Executive Board Recommendations for the Retiree Health Care Trust Fund Board

Retiree seat: Carol Cypert

Active seat: David Salem

April General Membership Meeting



Ning Aguirre checks in Dave Longa before the meeting.



Our speaker, retired Police Sergeant Mark Hernandez, gave an interesting presentation on the S.F. ALERT Program, which trains San Franciscans of all ages to volunteer to assist in police emergencies.



Rear, from left: Gladys Shannon, Ellen Johnson. Front: Rose Miller.



Rear: Eli Calimquim. Front, from left: John Stenson, Richard Rothman.



Ray Favetti gave a brief presentation on "Guardians of the City," a museum dedicated to preserving the accomplishments and history of San Francisco's first responders.



Rear: Gloria Goss. Front, from left: Beverley Nelson. Evelyn Bennett, Jill Selchau.

Slate of candidates for RECCSF Office

Fiscal Year 2014/2016

Election will be held at May 14 General Membership Meeting.
Installation ceremony will be held at June 4 Annual Luncheon.

Nominees should be present to meet the membership.

President:	Claire Zvanski	Second Vice President:	John Madden
First Vice President:	Linda Tabor-Beck	Secretary:	Open

Board of Director candidates, five to be elected:

Mollie Agahi	Richard Dolbec	Mary Anne	Beverly Pardini
Eugene Barron	Ray Favetti	McGuire-Hickey	David Williams
Brian Cunningham	Sharon Johnson		

For your calendars:

RECCSF Annual Luncheon to be Held on Wednesday, June 4

The cost is the same as in the past four years—\$30 per person. If you reserve a table for ten, please include with your payment a complete list of names and entrée choices of those at your table. *No payment will be accepted without a properly completed reservation form, and no form will be accepted without payment.*

Checks are to be made payable to "RECCSF," and may be mailed, along with the reservation form, to the RECCSF office at 3915 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA 94122-1294. *Reservations and payments must be received by Wednesday, May 21—no exceptions! No tickets*

will be sold at the door, and no seating will be rearranged at the door.

On the day of the luncheon, each attendee (except *reserved tables*) will be given an envelope that has the table number on the outside; inside will be a "ticket" for your entrée, to be placed on the table so that the waitresses know which entrée to serve you. All seating will have been previously arranged by the Hospitality Committee.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the luncheon for \$1 each, or six for \$5. The number of cash prizes of \$25 each to be awarded depends on how many tickets sold, with 50% percent of the proceeds going to

prizes and 50% to the RECCSF operating fund.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact RECCSF Office Manager Reyna Kuuk at reccsf@att.net or (415) 681-5949; include your name and phone number in the message. Reyna will contact you as soon as possible.

We look forward to an enjoyable June 4 luncheon, and celebrating the installation of our new officers and board members.

Hope to see you there!

Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco

Annual Luncheon and Installation of Officers

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

United Irish Cultural Center, 45th Avenue and Sloat Boulevard

11 a.m. No-host Cocktails ~ 12:15 p.m. Luncheon
Luncheon Tickets: \$30.

Make your reservation at the **May 14** general membership meeting OR mail this form with your check (payable to RECCSF) to the RECCSF Office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294.

All below information must be filled out or your reservation form will be returned to you.

Table number assignments and meal tickets will be distributed at the luncheon.

Reservations and payments must be received by Wednesday, May 21 – no exceptions!

Questions? Contact reccsf@att.net or (415) 681-5949.

Annual Luncheon Reservation Form ~ Please Print!

Name(s) (e.g., John and Jane Doe): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail address: _____ Daytime Phone (w/area code) _____

Entrée choice: If making a reservation for more than one person, please indicate how many of each entrée type:

Chicken Pomodoro with Mashed Potatoes

Parmesan Crusted Sole with Rice

Cheese Ravioli

Please note the names of all other attendees with whom you would like to sit at your table.

Name/s: _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Detach and mail to: RECCSF Office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294. Thank you for your support!

Retirement Committee Report

By Jean S. Thomas,
Herb Meiberger, CFA,
and Stephen Herold

Plan performance and changing investment strategies

Reported preliminary results as of 3/31/2014: Plan value, \$18.93B—yet another all-time high—and nine months fiscal year to date (FYTD) earnings, 13.63%. Good news. But, do current asset allocations provide future consistent earnings in good *and* bad economic times? As we pointed out last month, new Chief Investment Officer (CIO) **Bill Coaker** and investment staff think an “active share” approach would do a better job. In line with those objectives, investment staff presented the SFERS Board with four recommendations at the 4/9/2014 meeting. The Board voted for the following two:

- **To include hedge funds in SFERS’ asset mix.**

Given the misuse of hedge funds by pension plans in the 2008 meltdown, this recommendation is controversial, to say the least! But, hedge funds have recently regained respect because—properly used—they add value to a diversified portfolio. *And, most importantly, historically hedge fund valuations increase and decrease at different times and at different rates than do traditional stock/bond portfolios. As a result, hedge funds help to offset the big peaks and, especially, valleys in valuations that plague traditional stock/bond portfolios.* Hedge funds take advantage of unforeseen market events—called anomalies—by opportunistic stock buy/sell transactions and other specialized techniques. However, hedge funds still retain significant downsides, such as large fees, difficulty in finding highly skilled managers, and lack of investible benchmarks. (And there are over 8,000 hedge funds with complicated strategies to choose from!)

Accordingly, at the 4/9/2014 Board meeting, several board members asked if necessary increased staffing and research costs had been anticipated and budgeted; Executive Director **Jay Huish** responded that they had been. Commissioner **Herb Meiberger** stated that selling options against SFERS’ equity portfolio has achieved hedge funds’ goals with better diversifying effects, lower expenses, and better, investible benchmarks. Staff and board members pointed out that hedge funds include options in their arsenal of techniques.

- **To include alternative equity managers in SFERS’ asset mix.**

In general, *alternative equity* managers are specialists, and experts, in well-defined niches—such as country, sector/industry, and even non-traditional structures. Historically, specialized niche investing has met, and even exceeded, benchmarks more often than traditional generalist investment styles (examples: funds by capitalization size, value or growth emphasis, large geographic area). SFERS has alternative equity investments within its existing portfolio that have done very well. The Board deferred action on the investment staff’s other two recommendations regarding real assets.

Stay tuned for developments.

Other items of interest

- A follow-up public meeting concerning SFERS “Level 1” fossil fuel social investment policy is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, 2 p.m., site to be determined. *We’ll confirm specifics next month.*
- At its 4/9/2014 meeting, the Board approved Great West Stable Value revised guidelines. While the guidelines make no change in the overall credit rating of AA+ or better, they do permit inclusion of BBB+ bonds. For more information,

please contact SFERS Deferred Compensation Manager **Julia Durand**.

- SFERS received an unqualified audit opinion (the highest level) for the fiscal years ended 6/30/2012 and 6/30/2013 from the outside auditors, Macias, Gini and O’Connell, LLP.

Questions? Comments? Contact Herb at herb.sf@gmail.com, or Jean at jeansthomas@yahoo.com, or (415) 665-4149. Stephen Herold has regrettably resigned from the Retirement Committee, but will review and critique our monthly reports. (Jean had lunch with Stephen recently. He is in good spirits, but his knee prevents him from active service.)

Let’s all wish Stephen a full and as-speedy-as-possible recovery!

Your Car-Buying Checklist

By *Kymerli Roberts*,
Centralized Lending Manager

- Spring is a great time to start fresh. For many, starting fresh means buying a new car. Use this checklist as a guide to finding your new vehicle:
- **Prioritize in writing.** Make a list of important car features. Start with “must-haves,” or features you need in a vehicle. Next, list “nice-to-haves,” or features you’d enjoy but could go without. Bring your list to the dealership as a reminder.
- **Head to the dealership.** Remember that you’re in charge; don’t let salespeople pressure you. If they do, ask to work with someone else. Before you test-drive a vehicle, inspect it. Look under the hood, find the spare tire, and open the trunk.
- **Compare and research.** If you find a car you like, don’t feel pressured to buy it the day you

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Protect Our Benefits

By Sharon Johnson

Protect Our Benefits is an independent political action committee which falls under the provisions of the San Francisco Ethics Commission and is not part of RECCSF. The opinions are those of the writer.

Protect Our Benefits (POB) is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the health benefits of retirees in the San Francisco Health Service System (HSS) and the pension benefits of retirees in the San Francisco Employees Retirement System (SFERS). We work to strengthen alliances with groups that already share our objectives, and to establish relationships with other groups and individuals that have similar objectives and shared values. We are committed to taking the political and legal action necessary to achieve our goals.

More than 3000 members and

contributors are retired employees of the City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Unified School District, Community College District, and San Francisco Court System, who support POB objectives and values.

POB is proud of the important role that retirees play in the City and County of San Francisco. City retirees and surviving spouses have a strong voice in our communities, cities and states where we live. We are concerned retirees in every sense, from community service activities to political campaigns. POB committee members and supporters contribute their time and talents to making a difference in protecting our future benefits.

All pension systems require good government and good management to function well. All systems must cope with economic uncertainties; inflation, unemployment, wage growth rate, changes in demographics, and changes in interest rates. While a wide range of

systems is capable of meeting the goals, we must be diligent in keeping our eyes on the system.

We have a responsibility to be politically active, and to work to elect politicians who will ensure that the City and County of San Francisco meets the needs of all generations; a strong educational system for our young people, well-paying jobs for workers, and a secure and dignified retirement for retirees. With teamwork in the leadership, and working hand-in-hand with like-minded individuals and organizations, our benefits will remain firm.

Your continuing contributions toward financing the lawsuit and POB's continued efforts are greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to Protect Our Benefits, (POB), P.O. Box 320057, San Francisco, CA 94132. Your donation is not tax deductible under federal or state law. Please visit www.protectourbenefits.org for further information.

Car-Buying Checklist

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drive it. Take time to compare prices and research the value of your trade-in. And feel free to stop back in and see us if you'd like additional guidance on whether you've found the right deal.

- **Settle on a price and buy your car.** Get copies of all documents, and don't drive the car home until all the financials are complete.

Get pre-approved for a loan at the Credit Union. Pre-approval allows you to enter the car-buying process with a clear idea of what you can afford. When you stop in for a pre-approval, we can also discuss other products and services that can streamline the car-buying process. For details on our vehicle products and services, visit SanFranciscoFCU.com, or call us at (415) 775-5377.

By Beverly Pardini and Marylou Allen

Monday, May 26

The Sacramento Dixieland Jazz Festival features classic jazz and swing. Included all-day pass allows entrance to all venues in and around Old Town Sacramento, with a map showing staging schedule; lunch on your own.

Wednesday, June 11

"Cornerstone Sonoma" includes four wineries, galleries, gift shops, gourmet food, and more than 20 stunning gardens to explore; lunch on your own. Before return, visit to Cline Cellars' Mission Museum.

Wed-Fri., June 18-20

After 75 years in the same family, the Nugget in Sparks has

Travel Committee Report

changed hands, and features new renovations. Spend two nights in the Nugget's East Tower and visit other casinos while in Reno; also, enjoy the Nugget's indoor swimming pool and spa.

Wed.-Fri., Aug. 6-8

Stopping at Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino in Coarsegold. Before arrival, a stop in Modesto at Sciabica & Sons Olive Oil Company for tasting. Next day, Yosemite visit to Inspiration point, Bridal Veil Falls & Half Dome; lunch included. Before return, a stop at Hilmar Cheese Factory for brief tour & lunch on your own.

Info: Marylou at
(800) 334-3465 or
mrylallen@yahoo.com.

News & Views

May 2014

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LOOK NOW AT YOUR MAILING LABEL.

The month posted on the label
is the date your dues expire.



Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 14

United Irish Cultural Center,
45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 20

Taraval Police Station
2345-24th Ave.

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Note to members

**Please keep RECCSF updated
with changes in address,
phone number and e-mail.**

Letters to the Editor welcome at
sheilamullen@mac.com

News & Views

June Deadline:

• Friday, May 16
5:30 p.m.

Please e-mail your articles to:
sheilamullen@mac.com

Visit our Web site:

sfretirees.org

RECCSF office

e-mail address:

reccsf@att.net

Welcome, New Retirees

Upcoming General Membership Meetings

Wednesday, May 14

Blue Walcer, MPH, wellness innovator at San Francisco General Hospital, will present a wellness program offered at the hospital that includes: tips on health and well-being; exercise classes; and cooking demos & tastings.

Wednesday, June 4

Annual Installation Luncheon
Keynote speaker and Administrator of the Oath of Office: San Francisco Treasurer and Tax Collector Jose Cisneros.
See Page 3 for an article about Treasurer Cisneros!

Regular Meetings

Second Wednesday of each month

Refreshments available: 11:10 – 11:50 a.m. • Program: 11:30 a.m. • Business meeting: 12 p.m. • Bingo: 12:45 p.m.
United Irish Cultural Center, 45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.