

Official Publication of the Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco

# NEWS & VIEWS

A MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR ALL CITY RETIREES

## Health Service Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski

The most noteworthy presentation came from United Health Care. Representatives from UHC presented a new Medicare Advantage Plan option for **City Plan** members. The board asked many questions and it seems that another presentation or two will be needed before any decision can be made.

This **Medicare Advantage Plan (MAP)** requires Medicare assignment, which means that members would assign their Medicare cards to UHC so that all medical benefits would be administered exclusively through this plan. In that regard, it is like the Medicare Advantage plans in Blue Shield and Kaiser; that means one can't seek supplemental medical care *outside* the network—such as chiropractic services—and have Medicare pay a portion.

One specific advantage of this MAP would be that benefits would require only **copays** of specific dollar amounts, which would eliminate the \$250 deductible plus 15% of the bills. The PPO **network is nationwide** (all 50 states) with an assumption that only 1% of providers are not in the network. Basically, those not in the network are providers who do not accept Medicare patients or payment.

There was some concern about the **pharmacy benefit**. It seems that CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) has set some new rules, effective 2016, about medications that are considered **“high risk” for those 65 years of age or older**. This might become an issue for all plans offered by HSS, but, for this presentation, it is specific to this MAP plan.

Other advantages of this MAP in-

*continued on page 2*

## Retirement Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski, Herbert Weiner,  
and Herb Meiberger, CFA

### Fiscal Year 2015/14 Earnings:

- Seven months into FY 2014/15, earnings were +3.09%; Plan Value of \$20.4B.

### Hedge Fund RFP is Approved:

- At the February meeting, the Retirement Board approved \$1B allocation to hedge funds. To implement that decision, staff provided a Request for Proposal (RFP) to seek a special consultant. After considerable debate and discussion, the Board modified staff's proposal to require fiduciary and ERISA standing and greater experience and credentials from the candidates, and modification of the five-member selection committee to include experts from public funds who have experience with hedge funds.

### Employee and City Contribution Rates are adopted!

- You are a member of a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan, where you and your employer (The City) contribute to the Fund. Since your contributions and benefits are determined as a percent of salary, assumptions are required to fully fund the pension plan to pay your benefits.
- At the February meeting, the Board adopted the following economic assumptions: “Actuarial Return” of 7.5%, “Price Inflation” of 3.25% and “Wage Inflation” of 3.75%.
- Janet Brazelton, SFERS's *actuarial services coordinator*, and Cheiron, the *consulting actuary*, presented the Actuarial Funding Valuation Report as of July 1, 2014. The market value of your Fund was \$19.9B, and the

*continued on page 2*

## April Calendar

### Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 8

*New permanant time!*

Business meeting & program: 10:15 a.m.

Irish Cultural Center

45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

### News & Views

### Editorial Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 9 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

All interested parties welcome.

### Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 10 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

All interested parties welcome.

### Public Meetings:

#### Retired Firemen &

#### Widows Association

Thursday, May 21, 1 p.m.

Irish Cultural Center,

45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

#### Veteran Police Officers

Tuesday, April 14, 11 a.m.

#### Change of location

San Francisco Scottish Rite

Masonic Center,

2850 19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

#### Retirement System

Wednesday, April 8, 1 p.m.

#### New address!

1145 Market St., 6th Floor

#### Health Service System

Thursday, April 9, 1 p.m.

City Hall, Room 416

#### UESF Retired Division

For time/location, contact

Diane Doe at (415) 822-2099 or

*Ddoe@mac.com.*

#### SEIU 1021 West Bay

#### Retirees Chapter

Monday, April 20, 12-2 p.m.

Union Hall, 350 Rhode Island St.,

100 South Bldg.

Contact: Claire Zvanski at

(415) 341-3085 or

*czvanski@hotmail.com.*

## Health Service Committee Report

continued from page 1

clude having a **nurse practitioner** as a **case manager** for each member with multiple health problems. Home visits are also included. Direct billing is supposed to be another plus, even when using providers that are out of network.

Lastly, the **10-county survey** has been completed and the new City contribution amount will be **\$579.24 for 2016**. The current 2015 contribution amount is \$567.80. This is an increase of 2.02%. All counties surveyed had changes in contributions. The same ten most populous counties (less SF) have been surveyed for the last nine years.

Blue Shield reported that 758 HSS members were impacted by the cyber-attack on Anthem. It has been confirmed that no private information was compromised and everything has now been resolved.

The trust fund is finally healthy, with sufficient funds to be encumbered in anticipation of claims.

Questions? Comments? Contact Claire Zvanski at (415) 341-3085 or [czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com).

### Member Alert!

In order to ensure that you receive your email copy of *News & Views*, please be sure to add [reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net) to your computer contact list; *this will ensure that your electronic copy does not get deposited in your spam folder.*

## Useful Phone Numbers

### S.F. Retirement System

Website: [www.sfgov.org/sfers](http://www.sfgov.org/sfers)

#### Phone Numbers:

(415) 487-7000 • (888) 849-0777

### Health Service System

Website: [www.myhss.org](http://www.myhss.org)

#### Phone Numbers:

(415) 554-1750 • (800) 541-2266

#### Phone Hours for both:

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### New Members

Ralph Kugler	POL
Bonnie Tempkin	DPH

## Retirement Committee Report

continued from page 1

“actuarial” or “smoothed” value was \$21.1B. The Plan is 94.3% funded based on market value, and 85.3% funded based on “actuarial value.”

- Based on these assumptions, staff and the consulting actuary recommended a total contribution rate of 30.34% of salaries. The proposed **employer** net contribution rate for FY2016 is 19.24%, vs. 23.18% in FY2015. The proposed **employee** net contribution rate for FY2016 is 10.10%, vs. 10.12% in FY2015. The estimated city contribution will be \$625 million for FY2016, vs. \$705 million for FY2015. The total estimated city payroll is \$2.6 billion, an increase of 4.4%. There were 29,516 active members and 26,852 retirees who received benefits as of July 1, 2014.

### Fossil Fuel Level II Engagement Passed!

- Commissioner Meiberger requested that the Board calendar Level II Engagement of Fossil Fuel companies under SFERS Social Investment Policies and Procedures. On March 11, 2015, the action was finally consummated with a six-to-one vote (Stansbury dissenting). SFERS will apply for membership under the UNPRI (United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment) and other organizations. SFERS will work with other public funds and investors to vote shares to promote socially responsible behaviors.
- Supervisor Avalos, who sponsored the board of supervisors’ resolution to divest fossil fuels, spoke in favor of the motion and to move forward expeditiously. Many members and speakers from organizations such as 350.Org shared their frustrations with SFERS’s lethargy in addressing this important issue. Many speakers argued for Level III, which requires sales of these stocks, but failed to show how selling oil and coal stocks by SFERS will limit the effects of global warming.
- Staff presented a recommendation of \$100 million in an “Ex-Fossil Fuel Index”. President Makras deferred it to the April meeting, as the action was not properly noticed.

### Questions? Comments?

Contact Herb Meiberger at [herb.sf@gmail.com](mailto:herb.sf@gmail.com) or Herbert Weiner at [h.weiner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:h.weiner@sbcglobal.net).

The Ottoman Empire still existed the last time the Chicago Cubs won a World Series: This is why Cardinal fans smile more than Cub fans.

### Rest In Peace

The following members have recently passed away.

Dolores H. Berrios	BOE	Edward J. Phillipp	DPW
Bridget Flynn	DPH	Jacqueline G. Wilson	WTR
Margaret M. Good	BOE		

# President's Message

By Claire Zvanski

The time to do all the things on my "to do" list seems to evade me! There are always more meetings to attend; but, I am still working on those out-of-town member meetings, and hope to hear of more time and location options.

The controller reported on the Retiree Health Care Trust Fund (RHCTF), which is interesting; but only applies to those hired after Jan. 9, 2009, who pay into that fund. It offsets the future, unfunded health care liability and only pays the employer share. The RHCTF is *not* the HSS trust fund that pays our medical and dental claims. Ed Walsh

is your elected RHCTF board trustee.

Your executive board reluctantly proposes the dues increase. RECCSF can't continue the financial bleeding out, so drastic decisions must be made. That also includes the electronic newsletter distribution. Times are changing, and we must stay current and relevant. If you can help us with Facebook and our webpage, let us know.

Please attend meetings, as we bring experts who will teach us how to avoid computer viruses, identity theft, and other scams.

Please continue to suggest programs of interest and we will do our best to bring them.



Questions? Comments? Contact [czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com) or (415) 341-3085.

## 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. The opinions are those of the writer.*

### Writ of Mandate

"Don't let them take it away or you will never get it back!"...*Mike Quill*

Through our writ of mandate, we are working toward "getting back" the elimination of our supplemental COLA with the outcome of the Proposition C vote in 2011. On Feb. 26 the court of appeals heard oral arguments. Even though we felt that the judges understood our case, there is no predicting the outcome; they may look like they favor one side and then write a different opinion. Our attorney believes that the judges were critical of the city attorney's presentation when a judge asked the city attorney "whether they could dig up graves to find out the intention of 2008 voters who had died." The city attorney often stated that the Retirement System is "in the red"; a false statement. Our attorney assured us that there is no evidence in the record of the city's inability to make the contributions necessary to pay all pensions, including the supplemental COLA. Pension contributions are a debt, and all cities in California have an obligation to raise taxes—without a vote—to pay the established pension contributions. The court has 90 days from the date of the oral arguments to release their ruling. Please stay in touch by visiting the POB website or our Facebook page, "protectourbenefits, city and county retirees," for the ruling and other news.

### Healthcare Issue

HSS, at its April 9 meeting, will learn more about City Plan offering an option of a Medicare Advantage Card.

### Join the Protect Our Benefits Committee

You can partner with us by becoming a member of POB. The benefits are many, giving us all an opportunity to advocate for ourselves. *Please help us keep POB strong by mailing your check—payable to POB—to POB, P.O. Box 320057, San Francisco, CA 94132.*

*Your donation is not tax deductible under federal or state law.*

### Slate of candidates for RECCSF office Fiscal Year 2015/2017

*Nominations can be made from the floor at the April 8 RECCSF General Membership Meeting; nominations will close at the conclusion of the meeting.*

*Nominees should be present to meet the membership.*

#### As of News & Views print date:

Secretary: *Open*

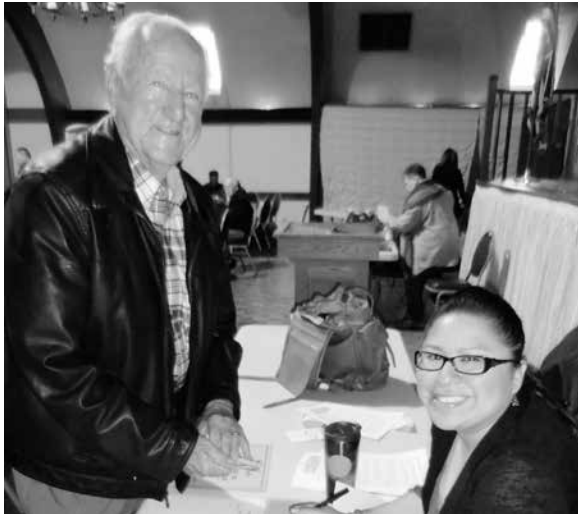
Board of Director candidates, five to be elected:

- Brian Cunningham
- Thomas Dang
- Adlai Jew
- Annette Lonich
- Herb Meiberger
- Sheila Mullen

Election will be held at the May 13 General Membership Meeting. Installation ceremony will be held at the June 10 Annual Luncheon.



# March General Membership Meeting



*Stanley Cordes (SFPD) renewing membership with RECCSF Office Manager Reyna Kuuk.*



*From left: "Retirees on the Move" team leader Nancy Arata (DPH), and HSS "Shape UP Walking Challenge" presenter Margaret O'Sullivan.*

*Chad Casper, Prudential Deferred Compensation counselor, was on hand to field members' investment questions.*



*New member Eva Chin (SFMTA). Welcome, Eva!*



*Department Chairperson Shelley Glazer, City College Older Adult Program, gave a stimulating presentation on the many free educational opportunities available to all retirees.*



*HSS presenter Margaret O'Sullivan gave a hands-on demonstration of exercise band strengthening exercises, as well as an informative presentation on free health-promoting classes offered at the HSS Wellness Center, First Floor, 1145 Market St., San Francisco.*

*Baseball Theme—feel free to wear your team colors!*  
**Annual Luncheon and Installation of Officers**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2015**

*United Irish Cultural Center, 45th Avenue and Sloat Blvd., San Francisco*

**11 a.m. No-host Cocktails ~ 12:15 p.m. Luncheon**

**Luncheon Tickets: \$30.**

Make your reservation at the April 8 or May 13 general membership meetings or mail this form with your check (payable to RECCSF) to the RECCSF Office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294.

***Reservations and payments must be received by Wednesday, June 3—no exceptions!***

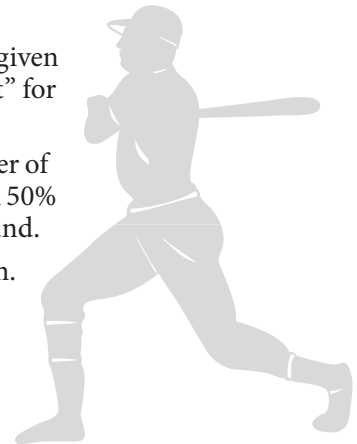
All information must be filled out, or your reservation form will be returned to you. No payment will be accepted without a properly completed reservation form, and no form will be accepted without payment. No tickets will be sold at the door, and no seating will be rearranged at the door.

**For your information:**

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



If you have any questions, contact RECCSF Office Manager Reyna Kuuk at [reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net) or (415) 681- 5949; include your name and phone number in the message.



**Annual Luncheon Reservation Form ~ Please Print!**

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

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 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:

Beef Pot Roast with Mashed Potatoes       Parmesan Crusted Sole with Rice       Cheese Ravioli

Entrée Choice(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Detach and mail to: RECCSF Office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294.**

## **“Many Thanks” from The Frugal Few Committee**

*By Linda Tabor-Beck, chair*

After our Wednesday, March 11, General Membership Meeting, member Charles A. Hastings donated a sizeable gift to RECCSF; some days later, member Jean Thomas mailed RECCSF an extremely generous donation.

Remember, *you, too*, can be a Friend of RECCSF. Donations of any size are gratefully accepted. Just remember to put “Friends of RECCSF” on the memo line of your check before mailing it the RECCSF office.

“Thanks again” to Mr. Hastings and Ms. Thomas!

## **Attention—RECCSF members still receiving their copies of *News & Views* by U.S. mail!**

In order to provide a greater range of information and remain within our allotted dues revenue, we are moving to an email version of *News & Views* that will also enable you to receive current information on developing retirement or health care topics.

In order to receive your monthly copy by email—if you have not already provided the office with this information—please sign up immediately at [RECCSF@att.net](mailto:RECCSF@att.net).

*If you wish to continue to receive a hard copy of News & Views by the U.S. Postal Service, it will become necessary to charge \$25 per year to defray escalating printing and mailing costs; effective July 31, 2015, you will be charged this increase.*

*(Exemptions may be made, on a case-by-case basis, for members not having access to computers.)*

## **Shape Up Eight-Week Walking Challenge**

*April 6–May 31, 2015*

Join a team with friends, family and fellow retirees.

Any type of physical activity counts.

Log miles online.

Enter to win weekly prizes and grand prizes!

*Learn more and sign up at:  
[myhss.org/well-being](http://myhss.org/well-being)*

*Sponsored by the City &  
County of San Francisco  
Health Service System*

## **Shape Up at the Wednesday, April 8, General Membership meeting!**

**Presented by the San Francisco Health Service System**

How much physical activity do adults need? Experts recommend 30 minutes a day, three or more times a week, of moderate-intensity aerobic activity. Moderate-intensity physical activity is anything that gets your heart rate up, such as brisk walking, gardening, cycling and swimming.

Also, learn more about the Shape Up SF Walking Challenge by going to [www.myhss.org/well-being](http://www.myhss.org/well-being) or [www.shapeupsfwalkingchallenge.org](http://www.shapeupsfwalkingchallenge.org).

We encourage our RECCSF members to “shape up” with us at our April 8 meeting, and also sign up for this eight-week walking challenge!

## **RECCSF Executive Board Report**

The Board adopted the Membership Committee report regarding cost-saving suggestions from electronic newsletter and other budget cuts.

New FY 2014-2015 budget dues increase: \$48 annually, \$600 lifetime; to be voted on by the membership at the Wednesday, April 8, General Membership Meeting.

## **Reminder to provide RECCSF with your email address!**



If you have an email address, and are still receiving your copy of *News & Views* by postal mail, please email [reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net) ASAP.

Emailed copies tend to reach members up to a week before printed copies, which not only ensure timely updates on your current retirement issues, but also help to significantly defray RECCSF postage and printing costs. Many thanks!



## Smart Shopping Pays

By Karen Johnson,  
Financial District Branch Manager  
San Francisco Federal Credit union

*Become an advertising critic.* Advertisers may use “puffing” to sell a product—a practice that legally allows a certain amount of exaggeration.

*Buy rationally.* Compare the prices at multiple places before making a major purchase, and avoid impulse buying. Avoid shopping when you are hungry, tired, depressed, or distracted.

*Be on-guard when online.* Only buy from secure Internet sites and read the privacy policies; review return, refund, and shipping and handling policies. As with any delivered item, request that the shipper receive a signature before leaving a package on your doorstep.

*Know the warranty.* Federal law does not require written warranties, but most come with major purchases; understand and keep them in a safe place. “Extended warranties” are actually purchased service contracts; to determine if you really need one, weigh the cost of the service contract against projected maintenance and repair bills.

*Nervous about a purchase?* Check with the Better Business Bureau for past complaints against a seller or manufacturer before you buy.

San Francisco Federal Credit Union wants to help you master your money. We can help you control your spending and make wise financial decisions when it comes to new purchases. Contact us to learn about our offered products and services.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I read the email version (of *News & Views*); thanks to the big letters, I can read it without glasses and the pictures are more vivid.

I look forward to receiving the newsletter via email.

Shigeji Naito

Editor:

The city controller recently released a report showing that the unfunded actuarial liability for post-retirement health benefits for both retirees and current city employees has decreased by approximately 10%—or \$437 million—since the prior study two years ago.

Although the total liability is still a large figure, the combined effects of Propositions B, C and A (passed in 2008, 2011 and 2013) show that the amount is manageable.

Post-retirement health benefits should be fully funded by fiscal year 2043; the City’s contribution rate should not exceed 9.33%, and no early withdrawal from the Retiree Health Care Trust Fund (RHCTF) should be required.

John Madden

*Editor’s note: The controller reported on the Retiree Health Care Trust Fund (RHCTF), which is interesting; but only applies to those hired after Jan. 9, 2009, who pay into that fund.*

## Travel Committee Report

By Beverly Pardini and Marylou Allen

### Wednesday, April 22

Located in the heart of California’s wine country at Safari West, enjoy a 90-minute ride exploring the Sonoma Serengeti on an African wildlife safari, alongside romping herds of exotic wildlife. Buffet lunch included, with time to visit the gift shop and live gentle animals. Safari West is fully accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

### Wed.–Fri., May 20–22

Two nights at the Carson Valley Inn. Trip starts with a scenic ride through the Lake Tahoe region and into the Carson Valley. On second day, trip to Virginia City; includes a lavish tea at the Historic Fourth Ward School House. Return home on the third day through Reno, with stop at the Silver Legacy.

### Sun.–Tue., July 12–14

Attendance at *The Pageant of the Masters* in Laguna Beach, where this year’s theme is “The Pursuit of Happiness,” exploring the many sources of happiness—both ancient and modern—through “living pictures”; includes two nights at the Embassy Suites in Anaheim, a visit to the California Space Center to see the Endeavor, and dinner at the Tivoli Restaurant.

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

## 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 is only \$36 per year.
- Please download membership application form from our website, [www.sfretirees.org](http://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 St., San Francisco, Ca. 94122-1294  
Telephone: (415) 681-5949 Fax: (415) 681-5398 • [sheilamullen@mac.com](mailto:sheilamullen@mac.com)

Sheila Mullen, Editor

## News & Views

April 2015

Volume 116, Number 4

Sheila Mullen, Editor

Office: (415) 681-5949

Fax: (415) 681-5398

Office email: [reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net)



LOOK NOW AT YOUR MAILING LABEL.  
The month posted on the label  
is the date your dues expire.



### RECCSF Officers:

Claire Zvanski, President

Linda Tabor-Beck,  
First Vice President

John Madden,  
Second Vice President

Secretary

George Lau, Treasurer

Leo Martinez, Sergeant-at-Arms

### Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 10 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

2345-24th Ave.

All interested parties welcome.

News & Views (USPS 896-740) is published monthly except August for \$36 per year by the Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Francisco, CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS & VIEWS, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294.

### Note to members:

Please keep RECCSF updated  
with changes in address,  
phone number and email.

### News & Views

May Deadline:

☛ Friday, April 17 5:30 p.m.

Please email your submissions to:

[sheilamullen@mac.com](mailto:sheilamullen@mac.com).

Letters to the Editor of 50 words or less welcome  
at [sheilamullen@mac.com](mailto:sheilamullen@mac.com). All letters subject  
to further editing for space reasons.

Visit our website:

[sfretirees.org](http://sfretirees.org)

RECCSF office

email address:

[reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net)

## Welcome, New Retirees

### Upcoming General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 8

“Shape Up” at meeting with Margaret O’Sullivan,  
Health Promotion and Wellness Manager, Health Service System.

Pat Tibbs from the Center for Learning in Retirement will be  
presenting information on upcoming exciting classes.